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A real Basil Fawlty hits out

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Mike O'Neill: history of overseeing bank mergers

£7 million pay deal for new Barclays boss

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

BARCLAYS BANK is to splash out more than £7 million on its new group chief executive, a former US Marine who was partly responsible for creating America's biggest bank.

Mike O'Neill comes to Britain to a pay package that far outstrips anything offered by the rival high street banks — and it is worth almost ten times as much as Barclays paid his predecessor.

Mr O'Neill, 52, will receive a basic salary of £850,000, a guaranteed 100 per cent bonus in the first year, and £5 million of shares. He will also receive an annual expatriate allowance of £175,000, as well as share options worth four times his basic salary.

The shares will be held in trust for three years and he will lose them if he leaves before then. But Mr O'Neill will himself buy another £5 million of Barclays shares after the bank's results are unveiled next week.

His predecessor Martin Taylor, who left the bank abruptly at the end of last year after a disagreement about future strategy, by contrast earned £738,000 in 1997. Derek Wanless, head of Natwest, earned a total of £450,000 last year, while Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Lloyds TSB earned a £700,000, including profit-related pay and profit sharing.

Mr O'Neill arrives from the Bank of America, where he was partly responsible for the £80 billion merger with Nationsbank, which created the country's largest bank. Before embarking on his banking career, he served with the US Marines between 1969 and 1971, did not see active service in Vietnam. Instead, as a volunteer he chose to work in intelligence.

His appointment, and the end to the uncertainty at Barclays, was welcomed by the City yesterday, but the banking union Bifu was worried about the size of his pay package. Jim Lowe, Bifu assistant secretary, said: "Some of my members will express concern."

Mr O'Neill is expected to preside over a complete overhaul of the bank, which has shed about 20,000 staff and closed hundreds of branches over the past decade. He has a history of overseeing huge mergers, and Barclays has been at the centre of merger speculation for more than two years — its name being linked with Prudential, NatWest and Abbey National. But one of his first tasks will be to sort out Barclays Capital, the investment bank, which lost £250 million in Russia last year.

Mr O'Neill will be using his £175,000 expatriate allowance to move his wife, two children and two dogs to Britain.

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There's no money here — try the chief executive's office

Betting link with soccer blackouts

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH AND STEWART TENDLER

SCOTLAND Yard and the Football Association yesterday launched an investigation into the sabotage of floodlights at football grounds by a betting ring with links to the Far East.

A nationwide search has been launched at football grounds for a device which disables floodlights. The police fear a number of the devices are already in place around the country, threatening matches this season.

Sabotaging a game would be hugely lucrative for gamblers. Syndicates in the Far East often bet millions of pounds on a single result. Bookmakers' rules in countries like Malaysia allow a pay-out on the score at the point a game stops, if it passes half-time.

Suspicions that football was again becoming the focus of a betting scandal were aroused last season when three Premiership matches at West Ham, Derby and Wimbledon were abandoned because of floodlight failures in the second half.

Last night detectives were questioning three men and a security guard arrested at the Charlton Athletic ground, the Valley, in south London on Wednesday night. The men were allegedly found tampering with electrical equipment linked to the floodlight supplies.

The guard works for a security company employed to watch the ground and the other three are from the Far East. The four were held by police after an undercover operation and are being questioned on suspicion of burglary.

Yesterday police said officers from the Yard's organised crime squad were studying matches where floodlighting had failed and matches halted. The Yard said senior officers were also talking to the Premier League and the Football League as part of the investigations.

At a press conference at the FA's headquarters at Lancaster Gate last night, David Davies, the acting chief executive, said that it was too early to link events at Charlton with other floodlight failures.

Over the next 24 hours the Premier League and the Football League are contacting all 96 professional clubs in England and Wales for details of any floodlight failures which could be suspicious.

Peter Varney, managing director of Charlton, said lighting equipment and power supplies in the ground were being checked and a statement would be issued today about the match with Liverpool.

A single Premiership match can be worth millions of pounds to a betting syndicate in the Far East, where a half-time result stands even if a game then ends prematurely.

Spokesman Graham Sharpe, of bookmaker William Hill, said the same rules did not apply in Britain. "Domestically, all bets are void if a match is abandoned. You keep your stake money but it's impossible to make any money."

He said the rules were designed to guard against any skulduggery to prevent a match being completed.

The possibility of a link between floodlight failures and sabotage was first raised two years ago after a succession of games were halted.

In August 1997 the match between Derby and Wimbledon at Derby's first match at the new Pride Park stadium was abandoned after 56 minutes when when Derby were leading 2-1. Peter Gadsby, the Derby vice-chairman, said a "bang" caused both generators to fuse and resulted in a loss of power.

In November 1997 the lights failed at Upton Park in a match between West Ham and Crystal Palace. Frank Lampard had just levelled the scores at 2-2 when the lights went out. The game was abandoned after 65 minutes.

The club said the floodlights at the south end of the ground developed a fault which could not be traced during the match.

A month later the match between Wimbledon and Arsenal at Selhurst Park was abandoned a minute into the second half with the scores at 0-0 after the lights went out. At the time it was described as a technical fault and Vic Worrall, the Wimbledon manager, blamed the problem on faulty switchgear. But in February last year there were reports that a Malaysian betting syndicate had placed large amounts on the matches.

MARCO RAVAGLI/AP

JEANS ALIBI

MPs Simona Prestigiacomo and Alessandra Mussolini protesting outside Parliament

Talk-show staff suspended over 'fake guests'

BY SUSIE STEINER

The BBC suspended three programme makers and announced a sweeping review of all broadcasts involving members of the public last night after it emerged that four guests on Vanessa Feltz's daytime chat show were fakes.

Two producers and a researcher from *The Vanessa Show* were "sent home" after an investigation disclosed that entertainment agencies had supplied "made to measure" guests for the confessional live programme.

The investigation followed claims by a London businessman, Tony Papotto, that he was paid £100 plus VAT for each guest he supplied to the show, which specialises in emotional out-pourings from traumatised interviewees. Miss Feltz, who was hired on a £1million contract after walking out on ITV in a salary dispute, yesterday described the incident as "horrifying".

Speaking on her daytime show, she said: "It's embarrassing. It's bloody awful. All I can say is that it looks like there's a fashion for hoaxing."

The BBC said that Ms Feltz knew nothing of the faking and that there were no plans to axe the series, which began on January 4.

In one month of broadcasting, in which *The Vanessa Show* has pulled disappointing ratings, the series is now believed to have featured four items using guests with fabricated identities.

Last Wednesday, two feuding "sisters" who joined a discussion with Ms Feltz on sibling rivalry were in fact strippers who had never met before. On Friday, Ms Feltz hosted a show on domestic violence, featuring a battered wife who in reality was an unmarried actress. Details have yet to emerge of the other two items.

In a statement last night, the BBC said: "We can confirm that two agencies have been used to book guests for four items on *The Vanessa Show*. Two producers and a researcher have been sent home pending further inquiries. We are still interviewing members of

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British tanks are sent to Kosovo

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

BRITISH tanks and armoured vehicles are to be loaded on to ferries next week for possible peacekeeping action in Kosovo, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, announced in the Commons last night.

Challenger tanks, AS90 artillery and Warrior armoured fighting vehicles will be placed on two Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, *Sea Centurion* and *Sea Crusader*, at the German port of Emden on Monday.

Mr Robertson said that although there was no peace deal yet and no decision on deploying Nato troops to Kosovo, it was important to have a force ready in the region to act at short notice.

The equipment will take ten days to reach the Greek port of Salonika, where it will await a decision to move into Kosovo.

Mr Robertson also announced that lead elements of an armoured battle group were being placed on notice to leave at any time. A week ago, 8,000 troops were put on 72 hours' notice. The first troops to fly out will also go to Salonika and then to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where they will boost the 2,400-man Nato "extraction force" which is already there.

Mr Robertson's announcement came as peace negotiations between the Serbs and Kosovo Albanians at a chateau in Rambouillet, outside Paris, approached the first deadline set by the six-nation Contact Group.

The parties were given a week to make sufficient progress on reaching a deal. They will then have less than seven days to complete negotiations for a three-year interim arrangement.

If a peace settlement is reached, part of the deal will be that Belgrade agrees to the deployment of a 30,000-man Nato force in Kosovo to implement the accord.

Kosovo gloom, page 18

Woman's tight jeans an official alibi for rape

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A STORM of protest broke yesterday after Italy's highest court ruled that a woman cannot be raped if she is wearing tight denim jeans, since she would have to co-operate in removing them.

Women MPs wore jeans to Parliament and waved banners in protest at the ruling, and a female judge denounced the appeal court as being in the hands of eldery men with old-fashioned ideas.

The Court of Cassation had overruled a lower court which had jailed a 45-year-old driving instructor for for raping an 18-year-old woman on a country road during a driving lesson. The all-male appeal court panel said that "on the basis of common experience, a factor of collaboration is necessary on the part of a woman wearing jeans if they are to be pulled off".

They said the girl — named only as Rosa — had clearly allowed herself to be undressed, and the act of sexual intercourse therefore must have been "consensual".

They added that they had considered the possibility that she had co-operated out of fear of a worse fate, but rejected the idea because "it was difficult to imagine" anything worse than rape.

Donato Pace, for the defendant, said the case was a fuss about nothing. "My client has sustained since the beginning that he had a fully consensual sexual relationship with the girl. She was simply trying to justify herself to her parents. She did not want to appear a loose woman, so she made up the rape story."

Maretta Scoca, the prosecuting lawyer, said the Court of Cassation ruling was very odd. "No matter how tight jeans are, they are designed to be taken off as well as put on. I think the judges have forgotten the importance of the zip fastener."

Newspapers and television stations were later inundated with calls from women who said that they had suffered rape or attempted rape while wearing jeans, having taken them off — or allowed their attacker to take them off — because they were "paralysed with fear".

In Parliament, Alessandra Mussolini led women MPs in a denim-clad protest and urged all Italian women to wear jeans to work until the ruling was reversed. Signora Mussolini, who two years ago framed a new law defining rape as a criminal rather than "moral" offence, said that the decision wound the clock back 20 years. "From now on, the fact that a woman is wearing jeans means that any man who assaults her will go unpunished."

The newspaper *Il Messaggero* said the ruling amounted to "a manual for aspiring rapists".

Tory naval barrage sends Quin limping back into port

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Just when you thought the Opposition hopelessly split, an issue breaks the horizon to unite them. Though the Tories have fewer MPs than Gibraltar's Rock has apes, the Party managed yesterday — for the first time in months — to look like an imperial navy.

For Education Questions the Government side had been almost full, the Opposition nearly empty. But for the Statement on Gibraltar, numbers reversed. A few Labour MPs bobbed about on the green benches: while the full Tory fleet came sailing in, flagging outrage.

Slipping anchor was HMS Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth & Horncastle), a magnificent old warship fired by crude oil. In slid the vintage HMS Alan Clark (Kensington & Chelsea), still a dashing corvette.

Some judge HMS Michael Howard holed beneath the waterline, but this manoeuvreable destroyer retains a capacity for brutal firepower. The Tories' Shadow Foreign Secretary began the skirmish.

Howard was fierce and pointed in his indictment. Indignant that the Foreign Secretary was away skulking somewhere over the horizon, Howard launched an attack of such violence that we were left with the impression that Britain had been ambushed by Spain — or, worse, was poised to conclude some dark EU stitch-up.

Nobody actually used the word "Dago", and Howard didn't quite say that the only thing Johnny Spaniard respects is knuckles, but words like "surrender", "U-turn", "retreat" and "duped" streaked over the waves and thudded into Labour's timbers. "Cancel MPs' Spanish holidays!" cackled the Cleethorpes-loving Dennis Skinner, at Howard: "yer can alus trust 'im to go over t'top". But Howard's questions were tough and lucid. Roars of Tory approval rewarded a well-marshalled broadside.

The Government risked no big guns in this engagement, requisitioning a cross-Channel ferry instead. Nice, level-headed Joyce Quin, a junior Foreign Office minister, speaks on EU affairs. Yesterday she failed to singe the King of Spain's beard. The MS Quin is not equipped to fire guns in anger.

She (or the Foreign Office) had slightly misjudged the Parliamentary moment. Instead of firing a warning shot across Madrid's bows she parried the Commons, adopting an air of beseiged rationality as though MPs were making a silly fuss, and Michael Howard hysterical: "I can't think of a word which means the opposite of 'statesmanlike' but whatever it is, it applies to him."

'Unstatesmanlike'? But if the Tories needed better manners towards Spain, Quin soon found they were not alone. Ted Rowlands, an FCO minister in a 70s Labour Government, sounded the alarm. For the Liberal Democrats, David Heath accused Spain of "crude bullying".

David Winnick (Lab) thought Spanish behaviour "deplorable and provocative": Franco had been a fascist. Constituents of Lindsay Hoyle (Lab) were trapped at the Gibraltar border: "Let's take the kid gloves off," he declared, to Tory cheers. "Madrid should be told," said Labour's Norman Godman. The MS Quin was shipping water.

And the Tory fleet steamed into battle. The HMS John Wilkinson, on whose deck the cannon point permanently toward Ostend, demanded we "cut off supply" to Brussels, "to concentrate the Spanish mind". Michael Colvin wanted to dispatch a gunboat to protect fishermen. So did Andrew Tyrie, who had visited: "I was there!" The "bullying" Spanish police were being met by "appeasement".

The MS Quin limped back to port, Tory guns still blazing. She had held the FCO's course: in King Charles Street that will raise a cheer. In Downing Street the battering she got may raise an eyebrow.

£200m grant may be key to Rover deal

Treasury funds could extract a further £1bn from BMW, writes Roland Watson

A SECRET deal under which BMW would pump more than £1 billion into Rover's beleaguered Longbridge plant in return for up to £200 million of government cash was beginning to take shape last night.

The disclosure provides the first positive signal from the German firm that its newly constituted board sees a future for the plant and its 14,000 workers.

The details of a package, which would involve a commitment from BMW to build a new executive model at the West Midlands site, are currently being thrashed out between the carmakers and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Officials from the DTI are in daily contact with executives at BMW, Rover's parent company, and a final decision is expected within the next 10 days.

The future of Longbridge and the 50,000 jobs said to depend on it have been hanging in the balance since the dramatic boardroom coup at BMW's Munich headquarters last week which saw the ousting of Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chief executive and Rover's ally at the top table.

However, ministers are encouraged that BMW has continued its dialogue with the Government and is ready to talk in detail about the plant's future.

DTI officials have reached an understanding with BMW that if a deal were to go ahead, it would involve a substantial redesign of the sprawling plant and reskilling of its workers. Ministers are currently piecing together their own side of the deal, which would involve money given as regional selective assistance.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has told his officials to ensure that any package is based on development of the plant. Any hint that government money was being used to prop up an ailing factory would fall foul of European Union competition laws.

The money would have to come from Treasury reserves with the approval of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as it is not budgeted for in this year's DTI spending. But ministers are believed to be happy with a deal which would see every pound of taxpayers' money contributed by the Government extract five from BMW.

That would give Longbridge around £1.2 billion, including the critical commitment from BMW to build a successor to the Rover 200-400 series in the West Midlands. The figure is less than the sums of up to £1.75 billion which have been mentioned in recent months, but constitute enough to give Longbridge a future in the medium term.

But BMW has yet to commit itself clearly to the future of the plant. Although Herr Pischetsrieder's departure was matched last week with the sacking of Wolfgang Reitzle, his heir apparent who had wanted BMW to ditch Longbridge, there remains doubt about BMW's intentions.

A spokesman for Mr Byers said last night: "We are maintaining close contact with BMW. We are prepared to look carefully at any package which improves productivity and makes the plant more competitive."



Vanessa Feltz: "It looks like there is a fashion for hoaxing" she said yesterday

Vanessa

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the Vanessa production team to establish the facts. We will make any further findings public as soon as possible."

The corporation also announced a "full review of research procedures across all relevant programmes". A spokeswoman said: "Any programme that has members of the public taking an active part will have to be looked at thoroughly and carefully."

The latest blow to confessional viewing comes after the Broadcasting Standards Commission expressed anxiety about "victim television" and "the exploitation of others' misfortunes" for the purposes of entertainment. Television's "contract of trust" with viewers has suffered considerable erosion over the last year, after an explosion of docusoaps and confessional chat shows, many of which have drawn criticisms of faking.

Ms Feltz's arch rival, Robert Kilroy-Silk, came under fire last summer for interviewing a self-confessed paedophile on his programme *Kilroy*. The man was arrested by police as soon as he came off the show but was later found to have been a hoaxer. Last week Channel Four admitted its documentary — *Too Much Too Young: Chickens* — about young male prostitutes had involved faked scenes.

In an earlier embarrassment, the channel had to pull another docusoap, *Daddy's Girl*, off screen at the eleventh hour after it emerged that the main protagonists had lied about their relationship. Carlton TV, makers of *The Connection*, were fined £2million by the Independent Television Commission for staged scenes.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Two more pupils get meningitis

Two sixth-formers at a school near the heart of an outbreak of meningitis in south Wales were yesterday confirmed as having the disease. All 1,100 pupils at their comprehensive school, eight miles from Pontypridd, will be given antibiotics in an attempt to stop the illness spreading.

Fourteen people living in the area of Pontypridd have contracted meningitis in the past fortnight and three have died. Three schools in the town are already closed because of the outbreak and will not reopen until after the half-term holiday. Health chiefs yesterday described the fresh cases at the Y Pant Comprehensive School in the village of Pontyclun as "very unusual". They are trying to establish if there is any link to the earlier victims. One boy aged 17, was last night critically ill in intensive care.

Company guilty

The Austria-based engineering consultancy Geoconsult GES MBH, which failed to prevent the collapse of a tunnel at Heathrow in 1994, was convicted of breaching health and safety law. The cave-in caused the cancellation of hundreds of flights. The company will be sentenced today.

Gladiators axed

The ITV gameshow *Gladiators* has been axed after seven seasons because of a decline in ratings. At its peak, the Saturday night show attracted 11 million viewers, but the last series, hosted by Ulrika Jonsson and Jeremy Guscott, had an average audience of just 5.6 million.

Flight delays

Air travellers face delays and cancelled flights as new European air traffic control flight routes are put in place. The changes, designed to cut air traffic delays and save fuel, will mainly affect flights to and from Switzerland from February 25, but flights to Italy are also likely to be hit.

Newly wed dies

A teacher who married his Czech sweetheart two weeks ago died just hours before his bride was to arrive in London to join him, his family said. Paul Lewis, 32, from Chippenham, Wiltshire, married Lucie Krovotova, 22, in Prague, where doctors told him that he had leukaemia.

Film star Thomas

Thomas the Tank Engine is destined for Hollywood stardom in a multimillion-dollar musical. But the steam-train character may have to adopt an American accent for his big screen debut in *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*. A big name is being lined up to provide the voice for the part.

Bravery honour

The Prince of Wales will today present a citation to the widow of a soldier whose Military Medal presentation by King George VI in 1946 was cancelled. Irene Shackleton will also learn for the first time of the wartime bravery which earned her husband Daniel the medal — he never told her.

MPs say MoD was offensive to 'Terriers'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence was accused by an all-party Commons committee yesterday of behaving in a "patronising and offensive" way towards the Territorial Army, which is being cut by 25 per cent.

On the same day that Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, launched a £3 million advertising campaign to persuade young people to join the TA, the Commons Defence Committee, chaired by the Labour MP Bruce George, took the MoD to task for its "unwillingness" to consult properly with the TA over the planned cutbacks.

The committee's report said: "We are unimpressed by an apparent unwillingness with the MoD, including some senior elements of the regular Army, to listen to the voice of the volunteers."

"We expect the future relations between the two parts of the Army to be characterised by mutual respect. It is the duty of ministers to act, and to be seen to act, quickly and fairly when conflicts, perceived or otherwise, between the two parts of the Army appear."

Mr Henderson rejected the committee's criticism, saying that there had been four months of consultation before the plan for restructuring the TA was announced.

Dons say 50% pay increase is not enough

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PROFESSORS at Cambridge University are in line for pay increases of up to 50 per cent under proposals expected to be agreed next week. Some senior academics claim, however, that only a doubling of the present £43,000 salary will attract the world's best brains.

Cambridge dons are voting on a professorial pay package, which would give the top academics an extra £22,000 — double the bonus currently awarded to a limited number of professors after three years' service. The rise would leave the top Cambridge professors more than £20,000 better off than professors on the standard salary of £40,500 at Oxford.

Sir Keith Peters, head of the university's medical school, claimed last night that the new rate was still too low to enable Cambridge to compete with industry and American universities. "Half a loaf is better than no bread but, when you are trying to recruit world-class professors, £80,000 is about the minimum that is realistic."

Several high-flyers from US universities had turned down offers of Cambridge chairs, Sir Keith said. "I can think of people who wanted to come back but simply couldn't afford it. Cambridge is a very attractive university, but the kind of people we are hoping to get are extremely well set up. We wouldn't want them otherwise."

Sir Alec Broers, the Cambridge Vice-Chancellor, outlined the scale of the problem at a meeting of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee earlier this month. He told MPs: "Americans just laugh at us."

The new package, which has been under discussion since June, is part of a wider review of the university's finances. David Livesey, secretary-general of the faculties, who is responsible for the proposals, said savings were being sought from other areas to make money available.

Cambridge has had a differential system of pay for professors since 1989, but the university's General Board has acknowledged that other leading research institutions are now offering considerably higher salaries.

If the new bonuses were agreed, a special committee would nominate the beneficiaries, rather than the vice-chancellor, as at present.

Joan Whitehead, the Cambridge president of the Association of University Teachers, said higher salaries were needed for all academics, not just professors.

Sacked organist leaves abbey

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN NEARY, the sacked organist of Westminster Abbey, quit his home in the 1,000-year-old abbey cloisters yesterday. He has a new job as consultant to a millennium youth choir being launched by the Royal School of Church Music.

As he removed the furnishings from the home he has occupied for ten years, the Abbey brought in the headhunters Saxton Bamfylde to find a new organist. It is thought to be the first time such an organisation has been used to fill such a post.

Dr Neary, who lost his appeal to the Queen over his dismissal for financial irregularities, is about £100,000 short of his £250,000 legal bill. A substantial amount has been met by friends who set up a fund to finance the appeal.

The appeal was heard last year by Lord Jauncey of Tulichettle, sitting as the Queen's special commissioner, whose verdict came down strongly in support of the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr.

Last-minute attempts by supporters of the organist to negotiate a pay-off to help with his costs were unsuccessful and the Abbey has refused to pay his salary from his sacking in April to the delivery of Lord Jauncey's judgment in December. However, the Abbey has agreed not to pursue any claim for costs and has waived all rental charges on Dr Neary's home. In addition, there will be no attempt to recover £11,000 "secret profits" made by Dr Neary and his wife, Penny. He was cleared of any dishonesty.

John McAngus, assistant receiver general for the Abbey, said: "The Dean and Chapter regret that even after the finding of the Queen's special commissioner, confirming the dismissal of Dr and Mrs Neary for gross misconduct, we are still dealing with recriminations and speculation, diverting resources from the Abbey's main purpose."

Diners thrown out by Fawlty hotelier

Paul Wilkinson reports on how a Saturday night out for a dozen diners ended in court

NEVILLE STABLEFORTH achieved more mayhem at his restaurant one summer's evening last year than the fictional Basil Fawlty ever did.

From the start things were pretty prickly in the dining room of the Fir Tree Country Hotel as poor service and long delays raised the tension for the diners' on their Saturday night out. But matters did not boil over until nearly 10pm, when an 82-year-old customer had the temerity to complain that his meal was cold and tasteless

Stableforth, 37, who helped to run the hotel owned by his girlfriend, exploded. When the pensioner refused to pay, he threatened to punch him. At that, Edwin McNaughton, who himself had been waiting more than 90 minutes with his family for their meals to arrive, intervened.

An unchastened Stableforth, who later admitted he had been drinking, reacted by immediately ordering everyone out of the hotel in Crook, Co Durham. As the dozen or so bemused customers abandoned their plates and trooped out, they were harassed with a tirade of abuse.

Outside in the car park Stableforth squared up to Mr McNaughton and challenged him to a fight, delivering a blow with a speed the hungry diner had not expected at the Fir Tree Hotel. It cut Mr McNaughton above his eye so badly he needed stitches.

The story was related yesterday at Durham Crown Court to Judge Denis Orde, who told Stableforth: "It may be amusing in a TV situation comedy but in real life it is not funny at all to be on the receiving end of that sort of conduct.

"Your conduct in this matter was very childish indeed but it was also very outrageous. It seems that was the one thing you could supply within a reasonable time. That man was simply in the hotel with his elderly mother, wife and family in order to have a meal, or so he hoped. Even then, the row of complaints seemed to come from other parties at another table. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that, it was the end of the matter. But you chose to shout, abuse, harry and intimidate him and follow him out of the restaurant. It is not surprising that your business at that hotel had failed to attract much custom if that is how you dealt with customers."



Neville Stableforth: was put on probation for two years

> 'I told him if he was going to hit an old man, he'd have to hit me as well'

Stableforth, now living at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, admitted causing actual bodily harm to Mr McNaughton on August 22 last year and was put on probation for two years. He was also ordered to pay his victim £200 compensation for his ruined evening and £200 court costs. The restaurant is now under new ownership. After the hearing Mr McNaughton, a garage manager from Crook, said: "He is bound to be likened to Basil Fawlty after the way he reacted but I think that's a shame, because Basil is a bit of a hero of mine. Neville Stableforth is the least welcoming host I've ever come across and I doubt anywhere he runs in future will be highly recommended by anyone."

Mr McNaughton had taken his 74-year-old mother to the hotel to celebrate her success in gaining an A level in art. They were accompanied by her two grandchildren. He had ordered a grill, his mother a curry and the children fish and chips and a steak.

"We got our starters around 8.20 and we waited and waited but by 9.55 we still hadn't got any food. We weren't happy but we were not alone. The people behind, including an 82-year-old man, complained that the food was cold and tasteless and asked to see the manageress. She came out with Stableforth and a row erupted and they refused to pay.

"At that moment our meals arrived and we started to tuck in but the row was still going on next to us. I put my knife and fork down and turned to see what was happening, and he snarled at me: 'You big fat bastard, are you starting?' I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I'm glad my mother is hard of hearing.

"I told him if he was going to hit an old man, then he would have to hit me as well." He said Stableforth then erupted and told everyone in the dining room: "**** off, get out of the restaurant".

"He tried to bundle me out of the door but I told him I wasn't leaving without my family. I didn't want to leave them in there with a raving lunatic. When we got outside he made as though he was going to hit me with his left so I put my hands up. He then hit me with his right. I grabbed him by the throat in self-defence, just to get him off me. I think he ended up with a bloody nose as well. He hit me very hard. I was in a bit of a mess.

"We had tried to book tables elsewhere but everywhere was packed. I think his reputation travelled before him."

In court Beatrice Bolton, for the prosecution, said: "Stableforth told them, just like Basil Fawlty, in no uncertain terms to get out of the restaurant. He then followed them outside and said to Mr McNaughton: 'Do you want to put me down? Well I will put you down'."

In mitigation, Anthony Braithwaite said: "At the time of the incident Stableforth was at a low ebb due to the poor financial straits." He had been taking pills to help him to cope with anxiety and, on that night, had mixed them with drink. Stableforth was full of remorse and could make no excuses. His girlfriend and he had since split up and the hotel had new owners. Stableforth told police at the time: "It was probably everything coming to a head and the poor fellah got the backlash, didn't he?"

☐ Under the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 a diner should expect a meal "produced with reasonable care and skill" and in a "reasonable time". If the food is unacceptable the diner can refuse to pay all or part of the bill. If the service is poor but the food acceptable the diner can withhold all or part of the service charge.

Photographs: NORTH NEWS & PICTURES



Edwin McNaughton: punched after speaking up for an elderly diner at the hotel



Boy of 8 carried drug into jail, say police

By Annie Flury

A BOY aged eight was detained by police yesterday after he was allegedly found carrying drugs on a prison visit.

A woman with the child, not his mother, was being questioned by detectives last night. The pair were detained in the morning as they went to visit an inmate in Barlinnie prison, Glasgow.

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said that they had not got as far as the visiting hall when they were stopped. They had been taken to nearby Baird Street police station, where the boy had been found to be in possession of a quantity of controlled drugs, believed to be heroin.

The spokeswoman said that the boy was later released and that a report would be submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel. She said the drugs had a street value of between £150 and £175 but could be worth about £500 inside the prison.

Barlinnie, on the eastern outskirts of Glasgow, is Scotland's biggest prison, housing 1,100 inmates. Visiting times are no longer restricted to a particular time of day, and in many cases families book an appointment for a specific time beforehand.

David Melrose, chairman of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, said it was difficult to stop drugs entering jails. "If we have open visit facilities, it is readily available for abuse." He said that in the past babies had been used to smuggle drugs into prisons. "The only thing that would stop it is a return to complete closed visits which is unacceptable in this day and age."

Gaille McCann, a Glasgow councillor and founder member of Mothers Against Drugs, said that a stricter regime was needed in prisons. "Inmates will stop at nothing to get their drugs in. It is immoral."

The Scottish Prison Service declined to give a comment on the incident.

Officer is held over jail escape

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

A PRISON officer has been arrested after a man accused of involvement in an £8 million drug smuggling ring escaped from jail.

The officer was arrested after being removed from duty at Wormwood Scrubs in West London after a Prison Service inquiry into the escape of Tony Lavene. He was questioned about suspicions that Mr Lavene was helped to escape.

Mr Lavene, 54, fled last *month after being taken to the* visiting area for an arranged visit with his wife. She did not arrive and Mr Lavene managed to walk out unchallenged, past security cameras and doors.

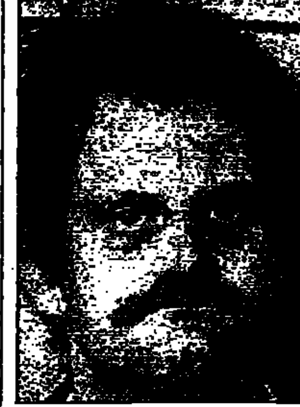
He was not discovered missing until two hours later when a roll-call was held at 4pm. He is still at large.

One theory to be investigated by police is that Mr Lavene, from Cheshire, was wrearing black trousers and a white shirt similar to the uniform worn by prison officers.

Mr Lavene was on remand at the jail, facing charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Paedophile flew to America to see girl he met on Internet

Man hoped to take teenager home to Tyneside, writes **Paul Wilkinson**



Waddup: he may now be deported, say police

A BRITISH paedophile has been arrested in America as he met a girl of 15 whom he had got to know on the Internet from Tyneside. It is believed he hoped to make her his child bride.

Police in Cincinnati, Ohio, say that that Ian Waddup, 37, established a relationship with the girl over many hours spent on the Internet. After flying out to meet her, he told them that he planned to stay in the US until her 16th birthday in May and then bring her back to England.

Last night Waddup, who has convictions for indecent assaults on boys and girls as far back as 1977 and as recently as 1994, was facing charges alleging corruption of a minor and that he interfered with the parental custody of a child. He is due to appear in court on March 4, but could be deported as an undesireable alien.

Details about Waddup were sent to Interpol on Monday soon after he left for the US, as a neighbour in Newcastle had *passed on details of his plans.* The information was still on its way to Cincinnati police when he was arrested later that same day, after a member of the public saw with him with the girl and alerted police.

The girl's parents, who live in a good neighbourhood in Hamilton, near Cincinnati, were said to be horrified when they learned of their daughter's liaison. Detective Joseph Warren of Springdale police *department* said: "I am convinced he was a danger to that girl. During interview, he admitted to us that he had been convicted of three indecent asaults on boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 or 13.

"It is of great concern to us and the parents of this young girl that a man with his background had arranged to meet her in this way. I believe she could very well have been in danger from him."

He said they first came into contact with each other in January 1998 and had been corresponding by letter, E-mail and telephonet. "Her parents became aware of what had been happening in the past year and tried their best to put a stop to it. But their daughter arranged to meet Mr Waddup and he flew to the States with the intention of staying here until May when she was 16. At that point we believe they intended to fly back to England."

Waddup flew to Cincinnati via Chicago after telling his elderly aunt, who shares his three-bedroomed council semi in Newcastle, that he was going to a job as a chef.

The girl played truant from school and took a taxi to the airport to meet him. They *went by cab to a shopping* mall where a passer-by alerted a woman police officer. Detective Warren said: "A citizen thought they just didn't look right together."

Details had since been passed to the US Attorney General's office. Detective Warren said: "Interpol received a tip from someone who knew what he was coming here to do."Waddup had at least three convictions betweeen 1977 and 1994 in the UK for sex offences against children under 13. The last was on May 6 1994, when he was given three years probation for indecent assault. He is not on the sex offenders' register.

POLICE LURE CHILD ABUSERS WITH 'STING SITES'

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

BRITISH detectives first began searching the Internet for paedophiles in the early 1990s, often working with other agencies in the US and Europe.

Paedophiles use the Internet to pass on vast amounts of pornography and to pose as penfriends to make contact with children. Police, in turn, comb the Net for suspicious websites and set up their own "sting sites", posing as paedophiles to make contacts. In 1994 an investigation led to arrests in Britain and Europe during which police recovered 900 pornographic images of children.

Police are now increasingly concerned about the spread of "encryption" software, which encodes text or images before transmitting them along telephone lines. Such material cannot be deciphered by officers monitoring Internet transmissions through phone taps, and police want the "keys" to new encryption systems to be held by an independent agency and made available to them for surveillance.

Union ruins prisoners' big night in

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE curtain has been brought down on nights of opera at a jail after prison officers refused to work extra hours voluntarily.

By withdrawing their goodwill, the officers at Downview jail in Surrey have forced Pimlico Opera to return 500 tickets to music lovers and to lose £5,000 in much-needed funds. In protest at the imposition of a nationwide 2.7 per cent pay settlement, prison officers across the country have withdrawn goodwill working under which they work extra hours in exchange for time off at a later date, instead of pay.

Jessica Wanamaker, Pimlico's administrator, said: "It is a great shame but not the end of the world. I understand the position of the officers. This is the only action they can take as they are banned from taking industrial action. It is very unfortunate. We are just sorry for the prisoners."

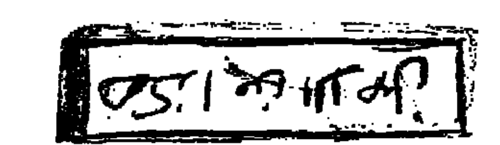
Pimlico Opera, a small company of which Sir Stephen Tumim, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, is a patron, had planned to perform Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* for prisoners, their families and people on the company's mailing-list for four nights this week.

Six singers from the company were to be joined by about 20 male prisoners on stage in the jail's gym for a nightly performance. Inmates at the low-security Category C jail had also helped back stage.

Prison officers had volunteered to stay at work beyond their normal shift time to help handle the 250 people arriving at the jail to see each performance and to ensure security at the prison. But after officers had deductions made from the pay after taking part in an hour-long protest over pay last month, they withdrew their goodwill.

Pimlico was forced at short notice to hold two afternoon performances for the 250 guests; and in the evening, instead of performances, to put on two "dress rehearsals" which could be watched by a maximum of 20 people.

Richard Morrison, page 35





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War crimes suspect faces his accuser

By Tim Jones

THE former British Rail ticket collector accused of war crimes yesterday faced a former schoolfriend who claims he saw him murdering 15 naked Jewish women with a sub-machinegun.

Fedor Zan, 75, a prosecution witness against Anthony Sawoniuk, gave no evidence during his brief appearance in an Old Bailey courtroom.

He merely identified himself and took the oath nervously in a mixture of Belorussian and Ukrainian. That will enable him to be a sworn witness when he accompanies the jury on Tuesday to Domachevo in Belarus, where Mr Sawoniuk was alleged to have been a member of a search-and-kill squad tracking down Jews who escaped the main massacre of 2,900 men, women and children in the village in 1942.

As Mr Zan, who still lives in the Domachevo area, stood in the witness box, Mr Sawoniuk stared intently at him. It appeared that they exchanged a brief glance but neither gave an indication he had ever known the other.

The court had been told by John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, that Mr Zan saw Mr Sawoniuk carry out a mass execution on a day in September 1942 when he hid behind some bushes after he heard women crying. Mr Nutting said: "He saw about 15 Jewish women of mixed ages with yellow-patches on their clothing standing in front of an open grave. The defendant was standing behind the women armed with a sub-machinegun. He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with the weapon. As they died, they collapsed into the grave."

Mr Zan, the jury was told, had watched his friend's transition from schoolboy to policeman, "from being just another youngster to one of those exercising a ruthless authority over Jew and gentile alike".

On one occasion, it is alleged, Mr Zan had seen his aunt and her family being taken to their execution by Mr Sawoniuk because of suspected association with anti-Nazi partisans. On another, Mr Nutting said, Mr Zan had seen the defendant taking a group of women who had been hiding in the ghetto towards the police station. "The witness noticed that one of them had a baby and saw the defendant hitting her with his hand with such force that she dropped the baby to the ground."

Later, he said, Mr Zan saw Mr Sawoniuk taking the same group in the direction of the sand hills, the area where the Jews were taken down a track, known as the "road of death", to their execution.

Professor Christopher Browning, a leading authority on the Holocaust, said that after the German advance into Soviet-occupied territory in 1941 German police had decided that locally recruited young men could carry out what they described as "dirty work".

While German army units and police shot adult Jews, even the feared SS found the task of murdering young children unpleasant. That gruesome deed, Professor Browning said, was handed to local groups, who were required to enforce the occupation policies laid down by the Nazis.

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from Bermondsey, southeast London, denies four charges of murder.

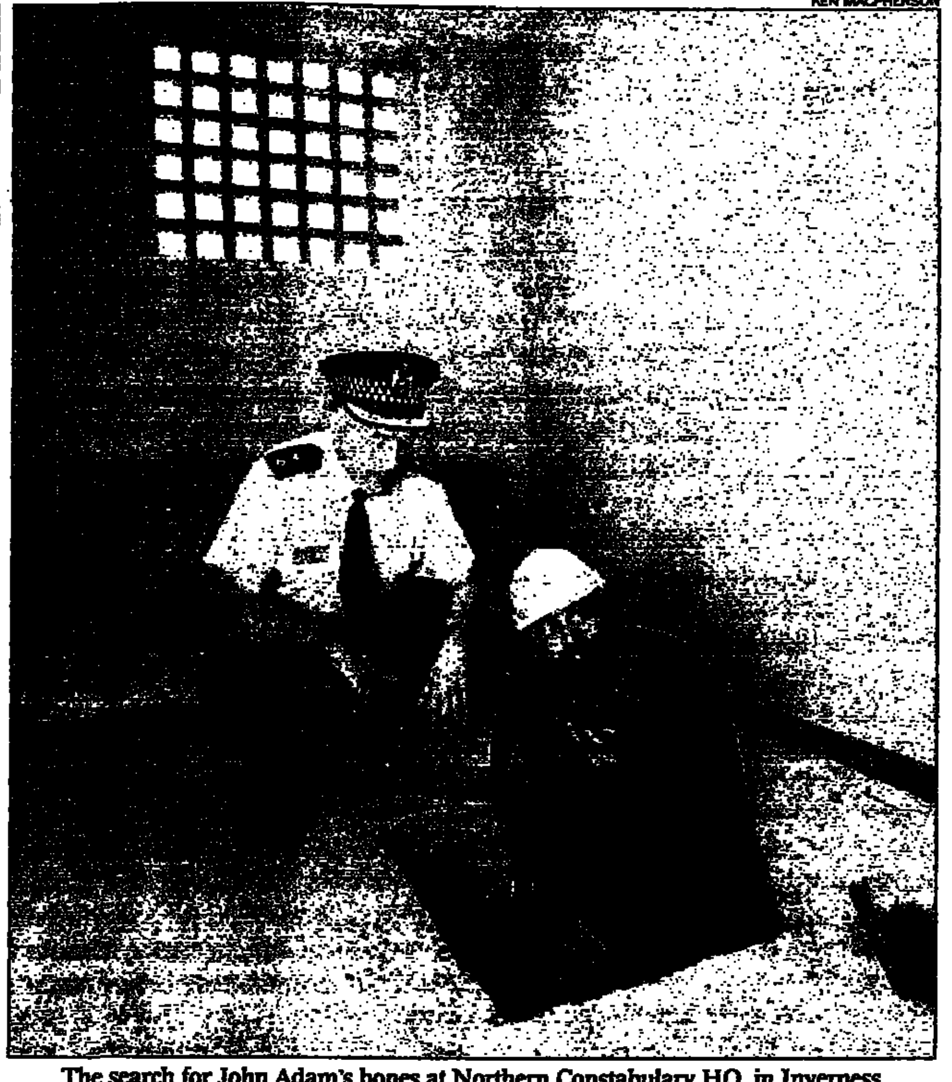
The hearing continues.





Anthony Sawoniuk, left, and Fedor Zan yesterday

KEN MACPHERSON



The search for John Adam's bones at Northern Constabulary HQ, in Inverness

Killer sought — 160 years after his execution

By Adrian Lee

A SEARCH began yesterday for the body of a murderer who was hanged more than 150 years ago.

The remains of John Adam have already been exhumed three times to comply with the orders of a 19th century judge that he should forever lie beneath the police cells in Inverness. Development in the town means that, once again, he is on the move.

But the apparently simple task of removing Adam's bones from beneath the Northern Constabulary headquarters, which are to be redeveloped, has been complicated by an oversight when they were last reburied, in 1975. No one bothered to note exactly where he was interred.

Radar equipment used to locate the bodies of murder victims is being used in the hunt. It should pinpoint the spot where Adam lies in a wooden casket, encased in concrete. It is proposed to rebury the murderer's bones when the building of new headquarters is completed. If the Crown Office approves, Adam will lie beneath the police station car park.

Adam, an army deserter, was sent to the gallows in 1835 with the command from the judge that he should be buried in unconsecrated ground "within the said Tollbooth prison at Inverness".

The last man to be hanged in public in Inverness, he was executed for the murder of his wife. The crime was committed in Millbuie, where Adam used to visit a mistress. His suspicious wife had insisted on accompanying him on the day she met her death.

Colin Sutherland, a former police inspector who has researched the case, said: "I think the reason his remains have been moved about so much is that the judge's order still has legal authority."

But Sheila MacKay, chairman of Inverness Local History Forum, said it was time that Adam "was finally left to lie in peace".

Lords put curbs on quarrying

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

THOUSANDS of quarrying rights are to be subject to new environmental regulations after a ruling in the House of Lords yesterday. The change could lead to many proposed workings being dropped, to the delight of conservationists.

Quarry concessions dating back to 1947 to extract sand, gravel, rock, peat and other minerals will be subject to modern impact assessments. Some 5,000 quarrying and extraction permissions are expected to be affected. Many sites are likely to be considered too costly to develop.

Yesterday's ruling centred on old rights to quarry at Preston-under-Scar, North Yorkshire. Efforts by a landowner to re-register his historic rights to open a quarry had been opposed by two local residents.

The dispute went to the Lords who ruled that old quarry permissions should be subject to a European Union directive on environmental impact assessments.

Help for the drunks aged 12

By A Correspondent

PUPILS who arrive at school with hangovers are to be offered counselling. The initiative follows a growing number of teachers reporting children as young as 12 with obvious signs of alcohol excess.

West Lothian Council is working with the region's drug and alcohol project on a £20,000 scheme that will provide counselling and advice to children involved in drinking or substance misuse.

Teachers in the region's schools will receive training in how to talk to pupils about the dangers of drink, drugs and cigarettes. Pupils who persist will be referred to the education authority's drugs and alcohol unit for professional help.

Yesterday a teacher at Deans Community High School, in Livingston, West Lothian, said: "I've seen children as young as 12 arrive late on a Monday hungover and unable to learn anything. It is a much bigger problem than drugs."

The campaign will also help children from families with alcohol or drug problems.

Grand Prix boss hits hedge hitch

By Peter Gleeson

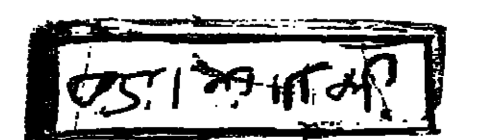
THE motor racing magnate Sir Frank Williams has amassed a £50 million fortune by making cars go faster. But his attempts to widen the driveway to his £3 million country estate look unlikely to get off the starting grid.

The parish council and neighbours of Sir Frank, head of the Williams grand prix team, say that his plans to remove an 800ft hedge will ruin a vital ecosystem for birds and insects.

The hedge would have to go to improve the 6ft-wide driveway at his home in Hungerford, Berkshire. Philip Gardener, a parish councillor, said its removal would be opposed when the planning committee meets next month. "A hedge should never be taken out. It sounds quite old and is probably a significant environment for birds and insects. This seems a flimsy reason for damaging the ecosystem," Mr Gardener said.

Williams: said hedge "not of historic significance"

In the removal notice lodged with the council, Sir Frank said the hedge was "not thought to be of historic significance or important". The Williams team declined to comment yesterday.



Judges cut sentences of gay party men

Campaigners call for change in the law after court refuses to overturn convictions, reports Adrian Lee

FIVE men convicted of taking part in homosexual sex parties that were recorded on home video had their sentences reduced by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The group — part of the so-called Bolton Seven — were convicted a year ago in a case that became a focal point for gay rights campaigners and which is estimated to have cost the taxpayer £750,000. The sentences imposed on the five, who were apprehended after police seized a video, were too severe, judges ruled. But, they said, it would be wrong to give the men the absolute discharges they sought because the offences were serious.

All had taken part willingly and behind closed doors but were prosecuted because homosexual sex is only lawful if no more than two men, aged at least 18, are involved.

Campaigners for the men condemned the decision as a missed opportunity to right legal inequalities between the treatment of homosexuals and heterosexuals and said they were considering taking the case to the House of Lords. One of the seven involved in the case did not appeal and another case is pending.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay, sitting with Mrs Justice Bracewell, substituted lesser terms on Gary Abdie, 22, Jonathan Moore, 21, Mark Love, 21, Derek Godfrey, 26, and another man who cannot be named because of his age. The men, from Bolton, Lancashire, had been given probation or community service for offences of gross indecency or buggery.

Terry Connell, 55, one of the seven, whose appeal is next month, stood outside court with a banner proclaiming the men's innocence. None of the other men was present.

Janet Cragg, the men's solicitor, said afterwards: "This is at best a technical victory. The judgment shows that homophobia is alive and well in the court of law. This was a missed opportunity to send a message that the police and the CPS should not pursue these cases."

Lawyers for the five had argued that, under European law, the men should have been


Abdie: settled down in a heterosexual relationship

treated in the same way as heterosexuals because the acts took place in private. The Court of Appeal rejected that submission.

The court ruled that although consensual homosexual offences were not viewed with the seriousness with which they once were, the original trial judge had been entitled to conclude that the offences were serious enough to warrant community service.

Although there was no commercial motive and the tapes were not meant for wider distribution, the offences might be seen as more serious than a single consensual act between two men of similar age and experience in a public lavatory.

Probation orders of 12 months were substituted in the case of the 17-year-old, Godfrey, and Love, who had been given combination orders of 12 months probation and 100 hours community service. Moore, who was given two years probation, had that reduced to 12 months. Abdie, who was the least involved and has since settled down in a heterosexual relationship, had his 150 hours' community service replaced with a one-year conditional discharge.

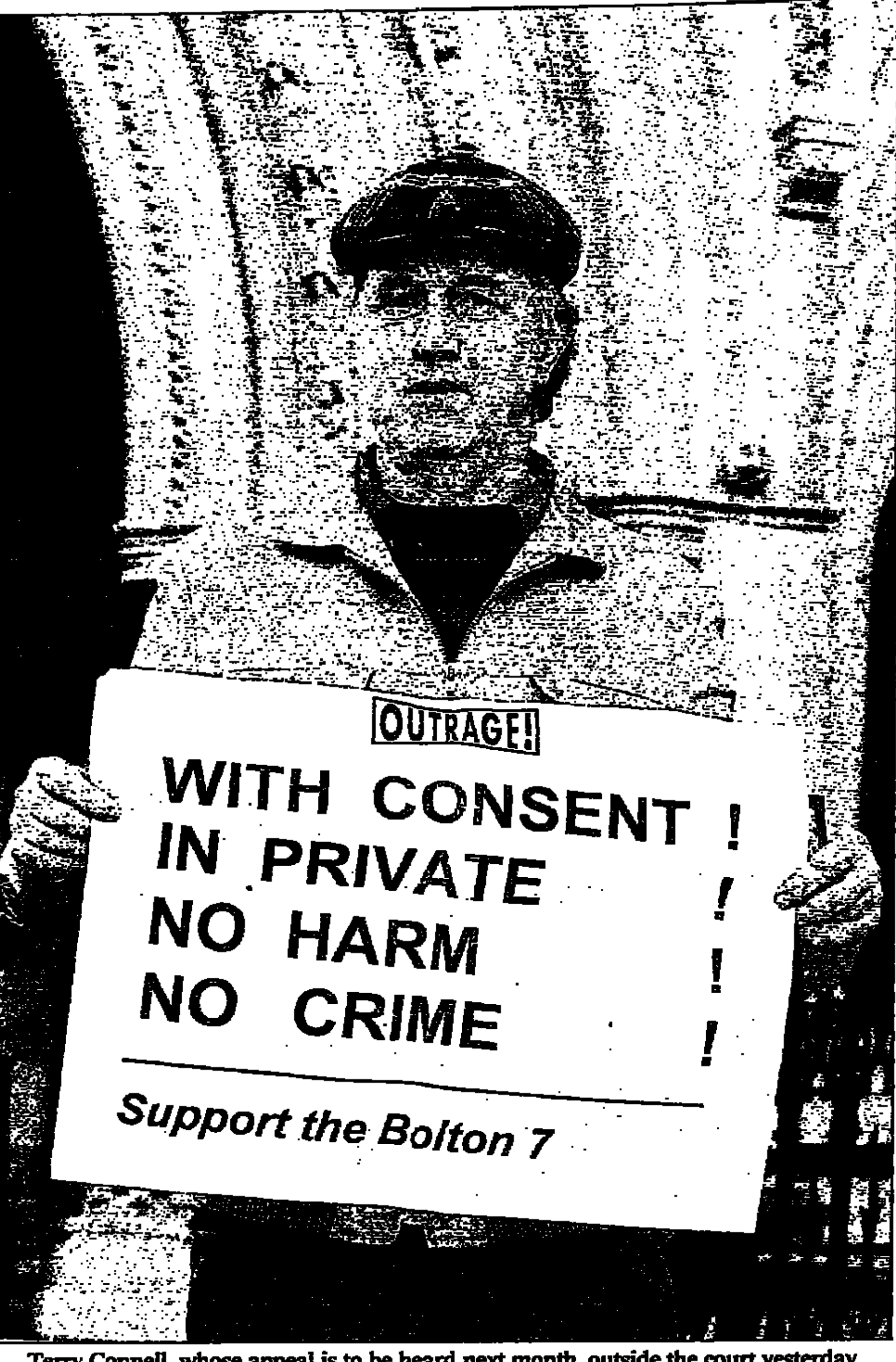
The case had attracted widespread interest and, as a result of publicity, several of the men were assaulted. The Crown Prosecution Service said at the time that it was in the public interest to prosecute.

Evan Harris, Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, who has campaigned for the men, said the case illustrated the need for a change in the law. "I feel strongly that consensual sex done in private should be left there. The State has no business prying. It is a complete waste of public money pursuing cases like these.

"This discriminatory law is rooted in the 19th century. The Government must amend the law before the European Convention on Human Rights forces us to do so."

> 'This is at best a technical victory. The judgment shows that homophobia is alive and well in the court of law'

FIONA HANSON



Terry Connell, whose appeal is to be heard next month, outside the court yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flames ad distresses viewers

A television advertisement for a new magazine, which shows people apparently bursting into flames, has prompted about 150 complaints. Viewers told the Independent Television Commission that the images were distressing and totally inappropriate. The Fire Brigades Union said: "People who have lost a relation in a fire could be grief-stricken by these advertisements."

The images show a flame effect around people as they become engrossed in the entertainment magazine *Heat*. EMAP Metro, its publisher, said: "It is not our intention to offend. We have taken a surreal approach to the creative idea of reading the 'hottest' new weekly."

Rugby star jailed

Paul Ringer, a former Welsh rugby international, was jailed for 12 months for trying to conceal money in the United States after the collapse of his property company. Ringer, 50, of Penarth, admitted fraud at Cardiff Crown Court.

Verdict on Net

The report on the police handling of the murder of the black schoolboy Stephen Lawrence will be put on the Internet within a few weeks of its publication. The report will reach Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, next week.

Army widow wins

Leanda Dewhurst, 26, from Stockton-on-Tees, accepted £358,000 compensation from the Defence Ministry over her husband, Paul, 25, a lance bombardier who died when an armoured car overturned on exercises in Canada in 1993.

Bonus sought

Train drivers want a £500 bonus for working on New Year's Eve, when many people celebrating the turn of the millennium will be using public transport. The drivers' union Aslef is shortly to begin talks with the train companies.

No complaints

An elderly man handed over £4,000 for cancer research after requesting an appointment with Mike Pollard, chief executive of James Paget Hospital in Gorleston, Norfolk. Mr Pollard had expected a complaint from the anonymous man.

Rooted in past

Nine teeth pulled from such notable mouths as those of Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale have been bought by Paul Tipton, a Manchester dentist, for £1,840. The collection was assembled by Charles DuMerges, a society dentist.

Tips from the top as Bear drops in

By Hannah Betts

PUPILS who have saved the largest total of Free Books for Schools tokens so far were each rewarded yesterday with a shake of the paw from a special deliveryman. Paddington Bear, the character created by Michael Bond, arrived with 36 books at Hill View Primary in Banbury, Oxfordshire.

The school has collected 17,000 tokens from Walkers snacks, *The Times* and other News International newspapers since January, the most of 26,500 schools in the scheme.

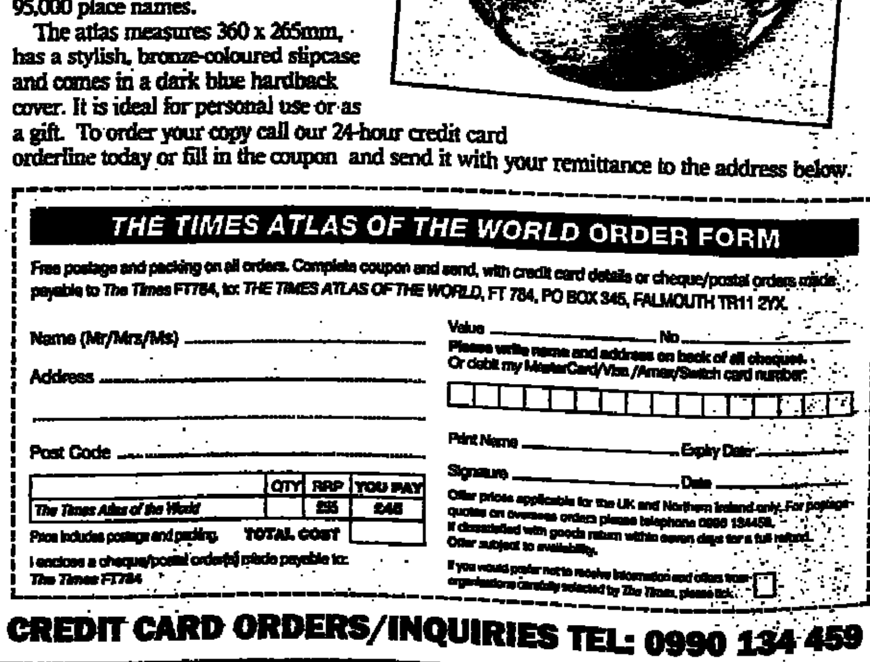
Jan Buxton, the literacy co-ordinator at Hill View, attributed its success to strong community spirit: "Free Books for Schools has had a tremendous impact and given children and parents a real impetus to get involved with a project that will be of real benefit."

The school replenished its stock of reading books last spring, so it had the luxury of choosing its free books entirely with pleasure in mind. Hill View offers the following tips to other schools. First, get organised. Have someone take charge of the cutting out and counting of tokens on a daily basis. Second, give the children a running total in every morning's assembly to give them something to aim at.

☐ Call 0171 895 9018 with your stories about collecting tokens for the scheme.

Token, page 26





Art lover who never forgot his British roots

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PAUL MELLON, the late, great American Anglophile, has left huge gifts to the US National Gallery and the British art centre that he founded at Yale University, as well as a string of bequests to British institutions including the Royal Academy of Arts and his old Cambridge college.

The billionaire philanthropist, who died on February 1 at the age of 91, also reflected his passion for horse racing, which gave the world the celebrated Derby winner Mill Reef, by providing for his horses and leaving millions of dollars to British racing charities.

The principal beneficiary of Mr Mellon's will, which was made public yesterday, was the National Gallery that his father, the industrialist, three-time Treasury Secretary and US Ambassador to Britain, Andrew Mellon, established on the Washington Mall in 1933. It is to receive £46 million and more than 100 works from Mr Mellon's collection of French and American art, which are worth many times the cash gift.

The works include two oils by van Gogh — *Still Life of Oranges and Lemons with Blue Gloves* (1889) and *Green Wheat Fields, Auvers* (1890) — as well as 13 by Seurat, 10 by Bonnard and pieces by Cézanne, Braque, Delacroix, Monet and Renoir.

Like most of the objects bequeathed by the will, however, the paintings will remain with his widow, Rachel "Bunny" Lambert Mellon, until her death. She received £67.5 million, as well as her husband's best American abstract works.

Mr Mellon's collection of some 130 pieces of British art went to the Yale Center for British Art, which he set up in 1977, along with another cash gift of £46 million.

"It is one of the great benefactions," Patrick McCaughey, the centre's director, said. "The Yale centre will be a self-sustained institution virtually in perpetuity. The second thing is that Mr Mellon is a great and avid collector of British sporting pictures. In many ways, the greatest British sporting pictures were with him and will come to us."

Mr Mellon also asked that the "founder's room" be set aside in the building for personal items, many of which demonstrated his life-long attachment to Britain. They include a pair of bookends given to him by Oxford University; a horse-shoe worn by Mill Reef in the 1971 Epsom Derby; and "the two emblazoned Clare College Boat Club oars won by me at Cambridge".

Mr Mellon was the son of Nora McMullen, an English brewer's daughter whom his father met on a transatlantic crossing. He was born in Pennsylvania but christened in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. His youth overshadowed by his parents' divorce, he went to school in America but spent many summers with his mother's family near Windsor. At Yale, he became an aficionado of British arts and letters, and returned to Britain in 1929 to study history at Clare College, where he rowed and developed a love of fox hunting. During the war he served in the London bureau of the Office of Strategic Services, the American intelligence agency run by his brother-in-law, David Bruce.

Always impeccably dressed and modest to a fault, he acted as the perfect English gentleman and in 1974 received an honorary knighthood. In his will, Mr Mellon remembers many of the British institutions that shaped his life.

Cambridge University receives £4.9 million and Clare College £3 million. The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Sir Alec Broers, said: "We were saddened to learn of Paul Mellon's death and it is particularly moving to know that he has remembered Cambridge in his will."

Among other British beneficiaries are the Royal Academy of Arts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation with £3 million each; the Apprentice School Charitable Trust of the British Racing School with £1.5 million; the Royal Veterinary College with £600,000; and the Animal Health Trust of Newmarket with £300,000.

Mr Mellon, Geoff Lewis and Mill Reef at the 1971 Derby



REUTERS

Paul Mellon, viewing *Dressed Ballet Dancer* by Degas at a Washington exhibition, made bequests to Cambridge, Clare College, the Royal Academy

American collector's tastes were ahead of his time

Richard Cork on some of the artists championed by Paul Mellon

OF ALL the great American art collectors, Paul Mellon had the most discerning appetite for British painting. While buying the choicest Impressionists, and Americans as outstanding as Winslow Homer or Mark Rothko, he also hunted out far less familiar work by overlooked British artists of the past.

His taste was so catholic, and in many respects ahead of his time, that he helped to transform everyone's notions about the achievements of our national school. I still remember the impact of the Royal Academy's 1964 exhibition, Painting in England 1700-1850, drawn exclusively from Paul Mellon's then fast-growing collection. It opened our eyes to the merits of unsung artists: John Hamilton Mortimer's piercing yet affectionate portrait of Mrs Lushington; Francis Danby's romantic vision of the woods near Clifton; or Francis Wheatley's shamelessly erotic *Girls Bathing by a Waterfall*.

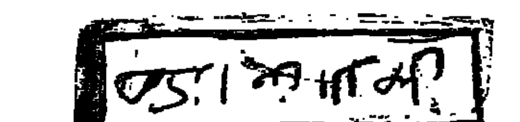
All these paintings, and many others besides, now enjoy a permanent home in the Yale Center for British Art. The building has just reopened after extensive renovation with a trio of exhibitions devoted to Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Henry Moore. Mellon's collection, though, surveys the entire history of British painting with a sweep second only to the Tate Gallery. Constable is seen at his thunderous best in a luminous, cloud-swept panorama of Hadleigh Castle and its sunlit coastal setting; Turner is represented in all his astonishing variety, from the Claude-inspired painting of Lake Avernus to a late, near-abstract canvas called *Stormy Sea Breaking on a Shore*.

If one painter can be said to sum up Mellon's love of British art, it is George Stubbs. Instinctively drawn to Stubbs through his involvement with horse racing, Mellon purchased key examples of his work. Nothing could be more spectacular than Stubbs's early showpiece of animal ferocity, *Lion Attacking a Horse*. But Mellon also acquired a quiet, tender painting of a zebra isolated in a forest, and his sense of humour prompted him to buy Stubbs's portrait of a stranded white poodle looking woebegone on a boat.

In London, we have special reason to thank this outstanding philanthropist. He established the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, which has revolutionised serious historical research into the subject. Based in Bedford Square, the centre supports the preparation and printing of books on British artists that would otherwise be commercially impossible to publish on a grand scale.



The spectacular early Stubbs, *Lion Attacking a Horse*



How much tax? You choose, says council

Milton Keynes referendum asks residents to pick better services or lower bills, says Mark Henderson

THE opportunity to set their own council tax in a revolutionary referendum has divided families and neighbours in the new town of Milton Keynes.

The Buckinghamshire town has been gripped by political passion and self-interest ahead of the poll, which closes next Friday. Voters are being offered a choice between tax increases of 5 per cent, 9.8 per cent and 15 per cent.

All three options involve reductions of £8.7 million in the budget but by their choice, voters can opt for stringent cuts or extra spending in areas such as schools and provision for the elderly.

Council taxpayers have been angered to learn that neighbours who pay nothing can vote to put up *their* taxes: hard-up pensioners and the unemployed fear that penny-pinching homeowners could cost them community centres, mobility buses and home helps: idealistic teenagers and education-minded mothers are accused of showing their generosity at the expense of father's wallet.

The repercussions will extend well beyond the pockets of the taxpayers: Tony Blair has indicated that local referendums — particularly for the approval of large tax increases — form a key part of his agenda for revitalising local government.

The vote will not be legally binding, although the council has pledged to abide by it. However planned legislation will make similar ballots, and the rivalries that go with them, a regular feature of local democracy throughout Britain.

Local election turnouts are the lowest in Europe. It is hoped that referendums will encourage people to take an interest in local politics, as well as preventing tax-and-spend excesses.

The Milton Keynes experience certainly suggests a new enthusiasm. Over 30,000 of the 150,000 ballot papers have already been returned. With a flurry of late votes expected before the deadline, councillors are confident the 39,000 turnout at last year's local elections will be exceeded by far.

Not everyone thinks the referendum a good idea. Brian Willatts, 52, an engineering manager, said it was wrong that the votes of non-taxpayers could put up his tax. "People who pay nothing but use lots of services have no incentive not to vote for the biggest rise."

At the British Legion Club in Tattenhoe, pensioners have decided to vote for 15 per cent to guarantee them better services, even though many members get significant council tax rebates. John Docherty, 63, and his wife, Sarah, 60, will vote for the highest increase. "If you want better services like this, you've got to be prepared to pay for them." Mrs Docherty said.

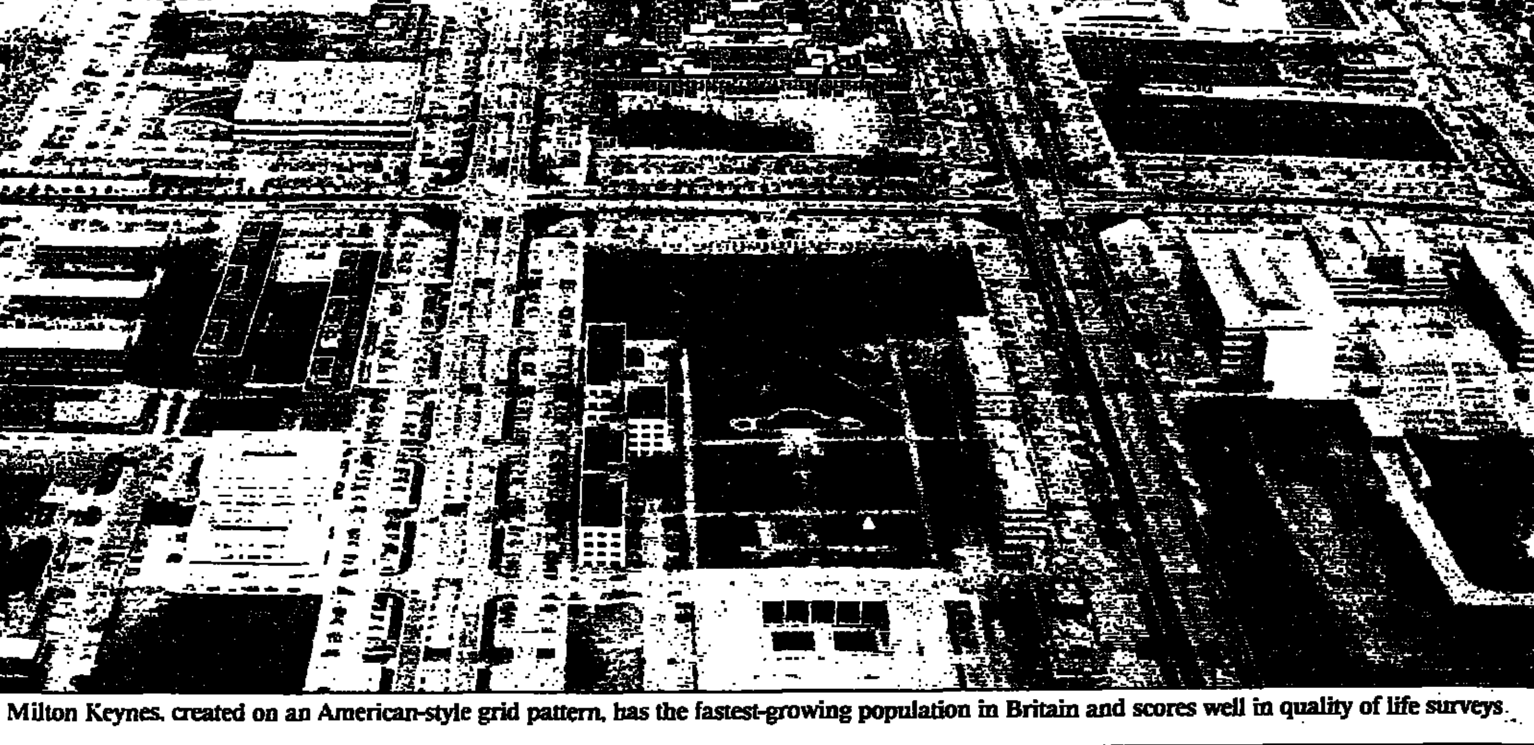
Claire Van Tomben, a sales administrator, said: "I feel caught in the middle really, because I don't want a big tax rise but I would like to see more done for the elderly. It's certainly got people thinking, even if most of us are pretty cynical about it. Lots of people say they're going to vote for 5 per cent in protest as the council will put it up lots anyway."

Opposition politicians said the whole idea was flawed. David Hopkins, the Tory leader, said the council was abrogating its responsibilities in a simplistic plebiscite. "The options are a *fait accompli* with no consideration of alternatives," he said. "The most vital task of a majority council is to set a budget and if they don't have the courage to do that they shouldn't be in power." He also questioned the £70,000 cost — as much as the annual budget of a small primary school.

Kevin Wilson, the council leader, said the referendum offered a real choice. "We felt it right to ask people what they wanted, and we'll abide by what they tell us," he said. "It is inevitable that cuts or big tax rises will be painful, and we wish it were easier, but it is the people of Milton Keynes who should be choosing between the two."

The new town has been a pioneer since its birth 32 years ago. It was built on an American-style grid of wide dual carriageways and roundabouts centred on a shopping mall.

Critics have condemned it as soulless but the town goes from strength to strength. It always scores well in quality of life surveys and boasts the fastest-growing population in Britain: 174,000 at the last count.



Milton Keynes, created on an American-style grid pattern, has the fastest-growing population in Britain and scores well in quality of life surveys.

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
(Council recommendation): 9.8% rise, £8.7 million savings package including:	5% rise; £8.7 million savings package, plus extra cuts including:	15% rise; £8.7 million savings package, plus extra spending including:
Youth services: £100,000	**Schools:** £450,000	**Schools:** extra £600,000
Nursery fees: £100,000	**Libraries:** £100,000	**Special educational needs:** extra £150,000
Children's play centre fees: £200,000	**Youth services:** £100,000	**Youth services:** extra £100,000
Road cleaning: £50,000	**Special educational needs:** £100,000	**Regeneration:** extra £150,000
Concessionary fares rises: £100,000	**Leisure:** £250,000 (leisure centre to close)	**Older people's services:** extra £100,000
Delayed transport projects: £1 million	**Home care:** £100,000	**Public transport:** extra £200,000
Road repairs: £200,000	**Community transport:** £50,000	**Cleaning:** extra £100,000
	Cleaning: £100,000	

Public get new look champion

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

THE Government yesterday took the first step towards creating a national super-ombudsman to handle complaints about the full range of public services.

MPs were told that the role of the present Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman, Michael Buckley, was to be expanded. From next month he will have responsibility for the investigation of complaints against 158 bodies and quangos ranging from the Food Advisory Committee to Hampton Court.

It is the first step towards the creation of an ombudsman's office that would act as a "one-stop shop" to filter complaints for all watchdogs and to pass them on to the relevant person for action. It is expected that Mr Buckley will be the person appointed to the role when it is introduced.

Racists may be publicly shamed

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

CONVICTED racists may be "named and shamed" by police under Scotland Yard proposals to combat attacks on ethnic minority communities.

Senior officers are considering plans that would treat racists convicted of repeated attacks or harassment in the same way that paedophiles can be identified to local communities and schools.

Once a racist had been convicted three times, details of his convictions would be passed by police to local newspapers. Ethnic minority communities would also be told that the racist was in the area.

Those named could include members and officials of extreme right-wing political groups involved in racist material such as leaflets, newspapers and graffiti.

Police believe that giving constant publicity to offences would build up public opposition to racism. The idea is part of a blueprint for tackling racism drawn up by a special unit at Scotland Yard and being circulated to every police station in London for comment.

Officers will be asked if the naming and shaming might itself create more violence by encouraging ethnic minority communities to take revenge.

The blueprint also suggests that members of the ethnic minorities accompany officers on the beat to help to reassure people that police were taking race attacks seriously. Police help-centres could also be set up away from police stations to encourage people to talk to officers without feeling ill at ease.

The strategy suggests looking at how racial hatred is passed on through generations by studying families involved in racism. Young offenders could be ordered to work in black or Asian communities as part of sentences.

Not such a gay day at the Townswomen's Guild



ROY RILEY

Time to listen: guild members at the talk yesterday. "It was interesting but I can't really get to grips with the whole idea," one of them said later

Elizabeth Judge on thoroughly modern delegates' reaction to tales of being a lesbian parent

MANY of them were born in the days when "gay" usually meant light-hearted and happy. Yesterday some of the implications of its modern meaning left them looking less than cheerful.

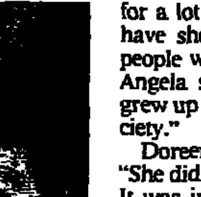
It was the day that members of the Townswomen's Guilds decided it was time to learn about lesbian parenting.

The guilds are perhaps best known for activities such as dances and tapestry, but they are determined to keep up with the times. They have been on the Internet for two years, and recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of using cannabis for medicinal purposes. Yesterday, however, may have been a step too far.

Two hundred women had travelled from all over the country for a one-day conference on *The Family "Myth & Kin"*, where a main speaker was the gay rights activist Angela Mason. Rows of greying-haired women with rouged cheeks and gold-rimmed spectacles peered intently as she began to talk about married life for lesbians.

A silence filled the room and many an eyebrow was raised as she described her own experience with her partner of 28 years and their daughter. One delegate in a navy cardigan played nervously with her pearl necklace. A frail-looking lady in a grey skirt and pink blouse had a puzzled look as Ms Mason discussed artificial insemination.

Even those who had talked beforehand about their willingness to embrace a variety of ideas looked uncomfortable.



Mason: "We can learn from each other"

Some responded with blank gazes to Ms Mason's jokes, such as about the risk of her daughter "catching" lesbianism.

Many of the audience were from a generation that had lived and coped admirably through decades of huge social change, but some admitted being stunned by the 40-minute talk. Veronica Hammond, 63, a guild member for 20 years, said: "It was a real eye-opener for a lot of people and would have shocked them. A lot of people won't agree with what Angela said. It's because we grew up in such a different society."

Doreen Bayman, 69, said: "She didn't really impress me. It was interesting to listen to her speaking but I can't really get to grips with the whole idea. The society we live in now is very different from the one I grew up in."

Sandra Yeoman, 42, from Dorset, said: "You don't associate the guild with lesbians. It's a delicate subject. We've got a fuddy duddy image and really we steer away from anything that might offend. But I think you have to live and let live."

There was praise from Lona Murray, 77, who thought that Ms Mason had been brave: "She made me realise that I have to be more tolerant. She came over as being very human and really made me think."

Ms Mason, executive director of the lobby group Stonewall, said that she had enjoyed addressing the women: "They all listened attentively and sympathetically, although I have no doubt they disagreed with much of what was said. We can learn from each other."

The conference also included an address from the Tory MP George Howarth on aspects of government policy on families, and speakers on step-families, one-parent families and grandparents.

With the guilds now celebrating their 70th anniversary, many members feel that it is important to discuss modern issues to attract younger members. Marjory Hall, 71, the national chairman, said: "We have got to move forward in our outlook. Part of that involves keeping up to date with current affairs. We have to be willing to listen and to be tolerant." Joan Corlett, 68, chairman of the Wirral federation, said: "We lead the way. We were talking about today's issues before any of the politicians. We've got a lot of clout."

Farmers warned on safety after spot checks

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS were yesterday told to improve safety standards, after inspectors uncovered hundreds of failings in 4,000 spot checks.

The most common lapse was inadequately guarded machinery, in particular unprotected drive shafts in which clothing could become entangled. In one case last year, a farmworker had to sever his arm with a penknife after it became trapped in machinery.

The Health and Safety Executive's checks on farming and forestry businesses in England, Scotland and Wales took place in the late summer and early autumn of last year.

David Mattey, chief agricultural inspector for the executive, said: "There is a glimmer of hope following the blitz exercise. More people are taking an interest in health and safety, but I would like to see this reflected in fewer fatal injuries."

Farm accidents claimed 188 lives in the past two years, making agriculture the most dangerous industry in Britain. There are about 2,300 serious injuries a year reported on farms. The total, including those unreported, could be 10,000.

"Inspectors found defects that needed an enforcement notice in 723 cases," Mr Mattey said. "More than half of these were prohibition notices served to stop immediately a dangerous practice that had a risk of serious injury.

"The executive also started a number of prosecutions that involved a total of 22 separate charges. This means that the executive's formal enforcement powers were used on farms at virtually one in five visits inspectors made."

Inspectors are particularly anxious to improve the safety of children. Over the past 12 years 69 have been killed in agricultural accidents.

"Inspectors issued no fewer than 80 notices dealing with child protection relating to slurry lagoons and grain pits," Mr Mattey said.

When confronted with their shortcomings, farmers typically responded that they had not been aware of the danger but thanked the inspectors for pointing it out, Mr Mattey said.

Twins see what a difference DNA makes

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FORENSIC scientists have set themselves the challenge of trying to detect genetic differences between a pair of apparently identical twins.

Orlando and Tristram Elmhirst look alike, share the same interests, friends, likes and dislikes, and the same mannerisms. Conveniently, they also both work in forensic science. Orlando is a project manager for the Forensic Science Service, which is conducting the research, while his brother is director of forensic services with West Mercia police.

Although even their wives have trouble telling them apart, the pair, who were born in Bermuda in 1957, have always believed that they are non-identical twins.

The DNA samples, taken from mouth swabs, should settle the question. If they are identical twins, the DNA profiles should show no differences since identical twins come from one egg that is split in two, and share identical genes. If they are non-identical twins who happen to look the same, there will be clear differences.

Tristram said: "If the DNA does not match, then we are just two individuals who look alike and share the same interests. Is it nature or nurture? That's the big question. We are now awaiting the results."

The study is part of a joint project by the Forensic Science Service and West Mercia police designed to increase the clear-up rate for burglaries by improving understanding and awareness of DNA tests and their part in analysis of crime scenes.

The brothers' collaboration is causing confusion at West Mercia police headquarters. Tristram said: "People who know me at force headquarters think I am very rude by ignoring them, but they don't realise it is my brother, who doesn't know them. It is causing a lot of confusion."

Tristram is a father of two and Orlando has four children, including non-identical twins. The only obvious visible difference between the pair is that Orlando is an inch taller than his 5ft 7in brother.

Both began their careers as scenes of crime officers with the Metropolitan Police and later they worked together as senior officers with Leicestershire police.

"That was fun," Tristram said. "We could easily tell if people were trying to spin us a line or playing one of us off against the other. Because we knew each other so well, we immediately knew if what we were being told about the other one was true."





Seeing double: Tristram, left, and Orlando Elmhirst





Beckett to give England a voice

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

MARGARET BECKETT took the first step yesterday to setting up a Commons committee designed to give England a distinct voice in Parliament after Scottish and Welsh devolution.

The Commons leader asked the Modernisation Select Committee to consider reviving the former Standing Committee on Regional Affairs. It will almost certainly back the idea.

Senior backbenchers believe the committee, which all English MPs would be entitled to attend, would be a way of handling some of the stresses and strains imposed by devolution. Ministers believe that letting Scottish and Welsh MPs vote on purely English legislation will look increasingly out of date.

There is growing support among some Conservative MPs for an English parliament. Although the Tory leadership opposes the idea, influential MPs are privately canvassing the idea of cutting the numbers of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland MPs at Westminster and ending their power to vote on English affairs.

New Labour resorts to old tricks in Wales

Campaign turns dirty as Blair's team battles to get its man elected, writes Valerie Elliott

TONY BLAIR'S new Labour campaign machine has resorted to Old Labour tricks in a last-ditch attempt to secure the election of Alun Michael, his personal choice, as party leader in Wales.

With just a week to go before the count, the leadership contest between the Welsh Secretary and Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, is emerging as a dirty and closely-fought campaign. Mr Michael's team is facing allegations of fixing votes from trade union and grassroots members to win the leadership contest and become First Secretary of the Welsh assembly.

Mr Morgan's supporters claim that the Labour Party machine cannot accept their candidate's overwhelming popularity with the public.

The decision on the Welsh Labour leadership will be announced Cardiff on February 20, but Mr Morgan's team claims the party machine is now trying to "stitch up" the proportional representation lists to select 20 candidates for the assembly so that those chosen will back Mr Michael.

However, three of the five areas putting forward PR lists have embarrassed Mr Michael by rejecting the rankings. His team has responded by claiming Mr Morgan's side is also using "dirty tricks". They say Mr Morgan's success in getting Unison's support — he won 7,101 votes against 2,557 for Mr Michael — was based on votes from Plaid Cymru and Socialist Worker Party members desperate to inflict "a bloody nose" on Mr Blair's man and embarrass the Government.

However, the Transport and General Workers' Union, led in Wales by George Wright, has plumped for Mr Michael, and the boilermakers' union, the GMB, is also expected to back him.

But the final count will now be extremely close: Welsh MPs predict the victor will be decided on a margin of less than 5 per cent of the vote.

Some 40 assembly candidates have already been selected for constituency seats, and of those Mr Morgan claims that 27 will vote for him. However, Mr Michael claims he has 26 of the 34 MPs and Mr Morgan four with the rest undeclared.

Anita Gale, chairman of the Welsh Labour Party executive, denies the PR lists are being "stitched up" to bolster Mr Michael, but in typical old Labour fashion the selection procedure itself is complex and cumbersome. For each seat an inner committee of three members of the Welsh executive, two National Executive members, and two party officials listens to five-minute presentations from any candidate wishing to appear on the list. The committee proposes a ranking of four and it is then put to the vote before 24 members in the Euro-constituency on which it is based. The 24 can approve or reject the list and cannot alter the ranking.

In North Wales and South West Wales the PR lists were undisputed. But in South Wales Central, South Wales East, and in Mid and West Wales the lists were rejected twice. The matter has to be decided tomorrow by the Welsh Labour executive, which is expected to rubber-stamp the rankings put forward by the inner committee. This would give Mr Michael 13 votes and Mr Morgan three.

Leading article, page 23



Head to head: Alun Michael, left, and Rhodri Morgan, right, make their points on the hustings in Swansea

No 10 orders policy freeze

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE impending Scottish, Welsh and local government elections have forced Downing Street to freeze the publication of policy documents for ten weeks.

Ministers have been told that unless they produce Green Papers or White Papers by the end of March they will have to wait till mid-June before they can be published. The moratorium is to avoid accusations of political campaigning in the run-up to the elections.

Documents competing to get in before the deadline include a Green Paper on public health, proposals for funding long-term care for the elderly, the draft Bill on Freedom of Information, the reorganisation of NHS pay, plans to extend access to the countryside, and proposals to clamp down on benefit fraud.

The long-awaited White Paper on the Child Support Agency looks likely to be delayed. Similarly affected are plans to regulate the private security industry and a draft Bill on party political funding.

Ministers may also decide to hold back more controversial documents such as a White Paper on the part-privatisation of London Underground and a draft Bill on the sell-off of the air traffic service.

By the time MPs return after the Easter recess, the official campaigns for the Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and local government elections, all on May 6, will be under way. Within a week the campaign will start for the European elections on June 10.

The effective freeze on policy-making will add to increasing grumbles about the lack of government action on policy issues. There will also be a question mark over the time left, on *either side of the long summer* recess, to publish consultation papers for legislation in the Queen's Speech in November.

The Cabinet has recently had its first discussion and it is likely that there will be Bills next year on: access to the countryside, the regulation of the private security industry, freedom of information, pension reform to introduce the second state pension, the sell-off of the air traffic service, the part-privatisation of London Underground, criminal justice, a Food Standards Agency, measures to allow local councils to hold local referendums and party political funding.

Politicians spooked by nationalist apparition



Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

A spectre is haunting Britain — the spectre of English nationalism. Merely to paraphrase *The Communist Manifesto* shows its absurdity. Like the Loch Ness monster, the threat of English nationalism is more discussed than sighted.

Yet politicians of all parties are nervous about the reaction in England to Scottish and Welsh devolution. After all, the plans were devised without any thought to the implications for England.

Before the 1997 election Tony Blair recognised this gap and two separate policies were produced. John Prescott and Richard Caborn devised what have become regional development agencies, centrally appointed and financed.

Jack Straw proposed a step-by-step plan for regional government, starting with regional chambers (linking local councils and business) and then, via regional referendums, to elected assemblies. The Prescott/Caborn plan is up and running: and, while there will be no legislation on regional government before the election, there have already been moves in the North East and, tentatively, in the West Midlands to set up voluntary bodies.

However, for the next decade, if not longer, devolution will be asymmetrical. The absence of a clearcut federal structure, as in, say, the USA or Germany, means that English and Scottish MPs will be in a different position — the West Lothian question. The Government has tried to brush it aside.

Short of a full federal structure, the question is unanswerable, which does not, of course, mean that answers will not be sought. One is to remove Scotland's over-representation at Westminster. The next review of constituency boundaries in five or six years will give Scottish seats the same number of voters as English ones, reducing the number of MPs from Scotland from 72 to 57.

The Government has already suggested that a reformed second chamber should be linked to devolved and regional bodies, both in membership and function.

Margaret Beckett yesterday offered an English response for the Commons by proposing a revival of the Standing Committee on Regional Affairs that last met in 1978. This would consist of all English MPs and would be able to discuss issues such as development agencies, regional economies and transport. Ministers might also be questioned, but there would be no binding votes. But the underlying contrast in the constitutional position of Scottish and English MPs would not be addressed.

In face of devolution and Labour's strength in Scotland and Wales, some Tories have advocated an English parliament, partly, in some cases, in the hope that in most years they would have a majority. Such talk alarms many in the leadership who fear that this will hasten the break-up of the Union rather than strengthen it, as the Tories have always urged. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, president of the Scottish Conservatives, and a veteran of devolution battles for 30 years, has instead suggested that when English legislation or policy is being addressed at Westminster, it should be left solely to English MPs. There are tricky problems of definition, and the issue is less pressing while Labour has a big majority in England alone.

Although the English question is hardly yet the menace, or big prize, that some Tories pretend, it will not go away. The immediate cause for tension is likely to be money and the resentment of English ministers at the much higher level of public spending per head in Scotland. No amount of committee debates will resolve that.

Sawyer's new post

LORD SAWYER of Darlington, Labour's general secretary from 1994-98, has joined the growing band of party officials to take jobs in the private sector. Lord Sawyer, a key figure in the modernisation of the party, is to be a non-executive director of Reed Executive, the recruitment organisation, on a three-year contract to work one day a week for nearly £20,000 per annum.



Agency's lapses cost old and sick millions

Public Trust Office comes under fire over management of funds, reports Frances Gibb

PEOPLE who are too old or sick to manage their own savings are losing millions of pounds because of bad investments made on their behalf by a government agency.

A report today from the National Audit Office says that the Public Trust Office, which supervises and manages £1.45 billion for thousands of people unable to handle their own affairs, is not managing and investing their finances properly.

The highly critical report says that the office, an executive agency, is failing in the service it provides to thousands of people, two thirds of whom are over 65 and in private nursing homes or health service beds.

Its report finds that where the office itself has responsibility for investing patients' capital, it is failing to obtain a good return. It is also failing properly to scrutinise the use of patients' money where other people have been appointed to look after their finances.

The report comes days after Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, announced the first review of the Public Trust Office since it was created as an agency five years ago.

When someone becomes mentally incapable of handling his or her affairs, a relative can apply to the Court of Protection for a receiver to be appointed to look after them.

About 25,000 people are believed to be affected.

The Public Trust Office, which became an executive agency in 1994, oversees these private receivers. It also acts as a receiver itself when no one else is available to do the job.

The report says that such is the low level of scrutiny that there is "insufficient information on the activities of receivers who fail to submit accounts to judge the possible level of undetected abuse".

A further failure highlighted today is that in many cases the office is not making regular visits to see patients, to ensure their needs are properly and promptly addressed.

The report finds that the office is failing to meet its own targets for capital growth over one year in 67 per cent of cases. Over three years, only 47 per cent of portfolios met their growth targets.

The Public Trust Office blamed that disappointing performance on the exceptional growth in parts of the stock market, which were hard to match in long-term diversified portfolios.

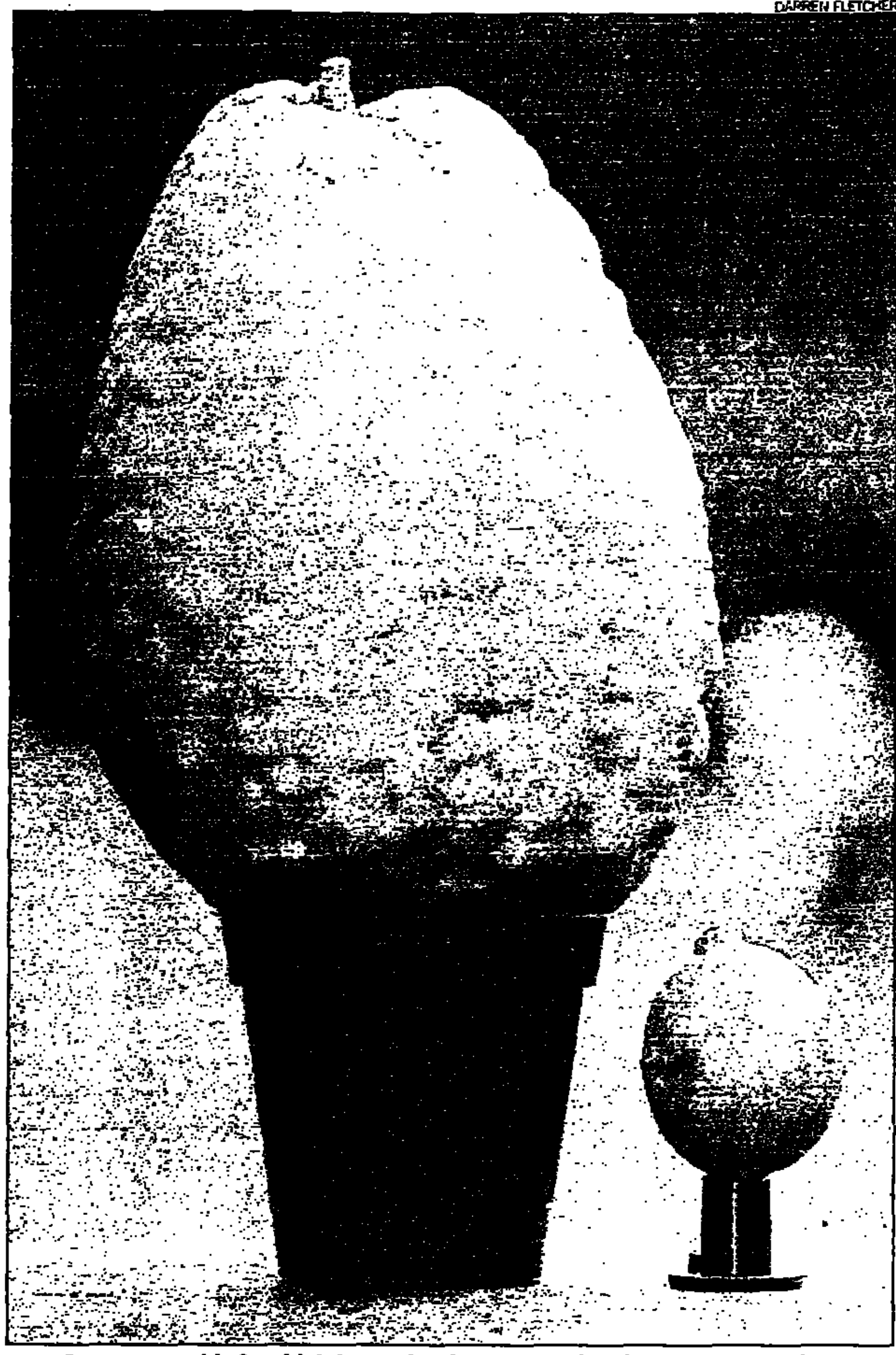
Today's report says that in 1996-97 more than 40 per cent of private receivers failed to submit an account of how they had used patients' money.

Where accounts are submitted the office's performance in reviewing the accounts had deteriorated since 1992-93, when 85 per cent of accounts were reviewed on target. In 1997-98 only 25 per cent had been reviewed within four weeks.

Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, recommends that the office should be more "vigorous and systematic in pursuing receivers who do not submit accounts and in promptly reviewing accounts received".

On visits to patients, the audit office report says that where the trust office acts as a receiver its aim is to visit all patients once a year. However 67 per cent of such patients were visited during 1996-97, against 86 per cent in 1992-93, in part because one visitor was on long-term sickness absence.

Although the office has doubled the number of visits since 1994-95 and 1995-96, they are still only 10 per cent more than in 1992-93, when the level was condemned by the Committee of Public Accounts as "unacceptably low".



DARREN FLETCHER

Sour power: this foot-high lemon has been grown in a hothouse at Lackham Agricultural College, near Chippenham, Wiltshire. The 3lb 12oz fruit will be squeezed on pancakes at a Shrove Tuesday party at the college next week

Homeless blame breaking up for life on the street

By Peter Gleeson

THE breakdown of a relationship is the most common reason for people becoming homeless, a survey has concluded. The streets offer consolation, however, in the companionship found with others sleeping rough.

Almost 40 per cent of those questioned said they were homeless because of breaking up with their partner, 21 per cent blamed their heavy drinking, 10 per cent said it was drug use, 18 per cent losing their job, 13 per cent money problems and 1 per cent blamed mental illness.

Nearly a quarter of the women said their parents were the reason for their homelessness, compared with less than 10 per cent of the men.

A quarter of the 120 men and 17 women questioned said the best aspect of living rough was the companionship and freedom. Common dislikes were the cold and damp (60 per cent) and intimidation from the public (34 per cent).

The survey was conducted by NOP for St Mungo's, London's largest charity for homeless people, which provides 1,200 beds a night.

The survey follows the return home earlier this week of Neil Yates, 37, a Nottinghamshire farmer, who went missing seven months ago. He felt unable to cope with the stress of raising a young family and working 90 hours a week, and vanished after telling his wife that he loved her.

Mr Yates spent several months living in hostels in Kent before police located him last week and reunited him with his wife and two children.

The National Missing Persons Helpline said hundreds of men suddenly left relationships because of inability to cope with financial and work pressures. Living in hostels or on the streets was an alternative to suicide, the charity said.

Charles Fraser, St Mungo's chief executive, said: "The findings are an important guide as to what is needed to get people off the street. It's no use our providing bricks and mortar unless we offer them support and companionship at the same time."

The survey disclosed that about 50 per cent of those questioned chose to live rough because there were no hostel beds available or they could not afford one. The majority of homeless people were men aged 25 to 34 and women aged 16 to 24, the survey found. The heaviest drinkers among them were men aged over 35.



Yates: vanished because of work and home stress

Men more deadly when it comes to suicide

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

MEN are three times more successful at killing themselves than women because they use more lethal methods of attempting suicide, a study has found.

An equal number of young men and women attempt suicide but the number of young women who die has fallen by 11 per cent over the past 20 years while the number of men who die by their own hand has increased by 83 per cent. The trend had been assumed to mean that the mental health of young men was deteriorating. But researchers from the social medicine department at Bristol University believe that it could be due to the fact that women's preferred method of suicide, drug overdose, has become less lethal.

David Gunnell, who led the research into suicides by people aged 15 to 34, said: "Men tend to choose methods that are more likely to kill."

In the 1960s overdose and gassing accounted for 75 per cent of female suicides and 50 per cent of male suicides. Today half of female suicides are a result of overdose compared with 25 per cent of male suicides. Men are more likely to gas themselves, either by domestic supplies or by car exhaust fumes, with 50 per cent choosing one of these methods. There has been a 339 per cent rise in the number of men hanging themselves, compared with a 191 per cent increase among women. Drowning has decreased by about 30 per cent for both sexes.

The replacement of barbiturates as sedatives by the less toxic benzodiazepines is partly responsible for the 36 per cent fall in female suicide deaths in the 20 years to 1995, although the number of non-fatal overdoses increased.

Increases in hangings and other suicide methods were found to predate the decline in overdose suicides. "This suggests that the social or other problems that underlie recent rises in male suicide rates may also affect women but are not mirrored by increases in suicide rates because the method they favour has become less lethal," the researchers report in *The Lancet*.

Whale meat again, my love

By Hannah Betts

IF YOU want to make your loved one blubber on Valentine's Day, this is the perfect gift for you.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on the Isle of Mull is offering environmentally friendly suitors the chance to adopt a 30ft minke whale and name it after their beloved. Amorous environmentalists can choose from 65 of the 14-tonne love offerings, each of which cost £100. Recipients will be sent a picture of their namesake and be able to visit as their charges swim off the Scottish coast in summer.

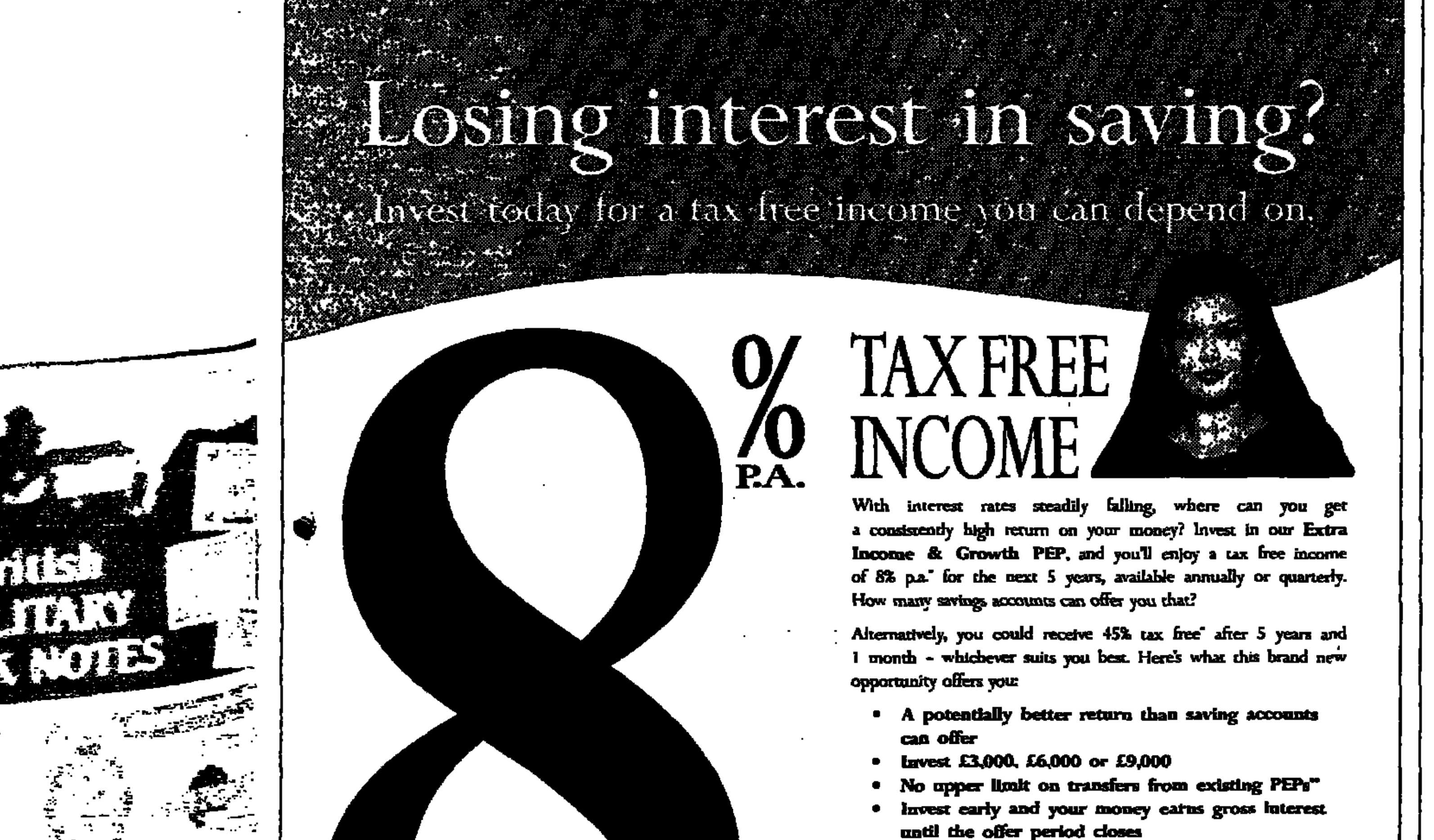
Greenpeace is also angling for a slice of the eco-action. Its Operation Sea Change is offering the chance to sponsor an individual stretch of the Atlantic "whale motorway", which it will defend against oil exploration.

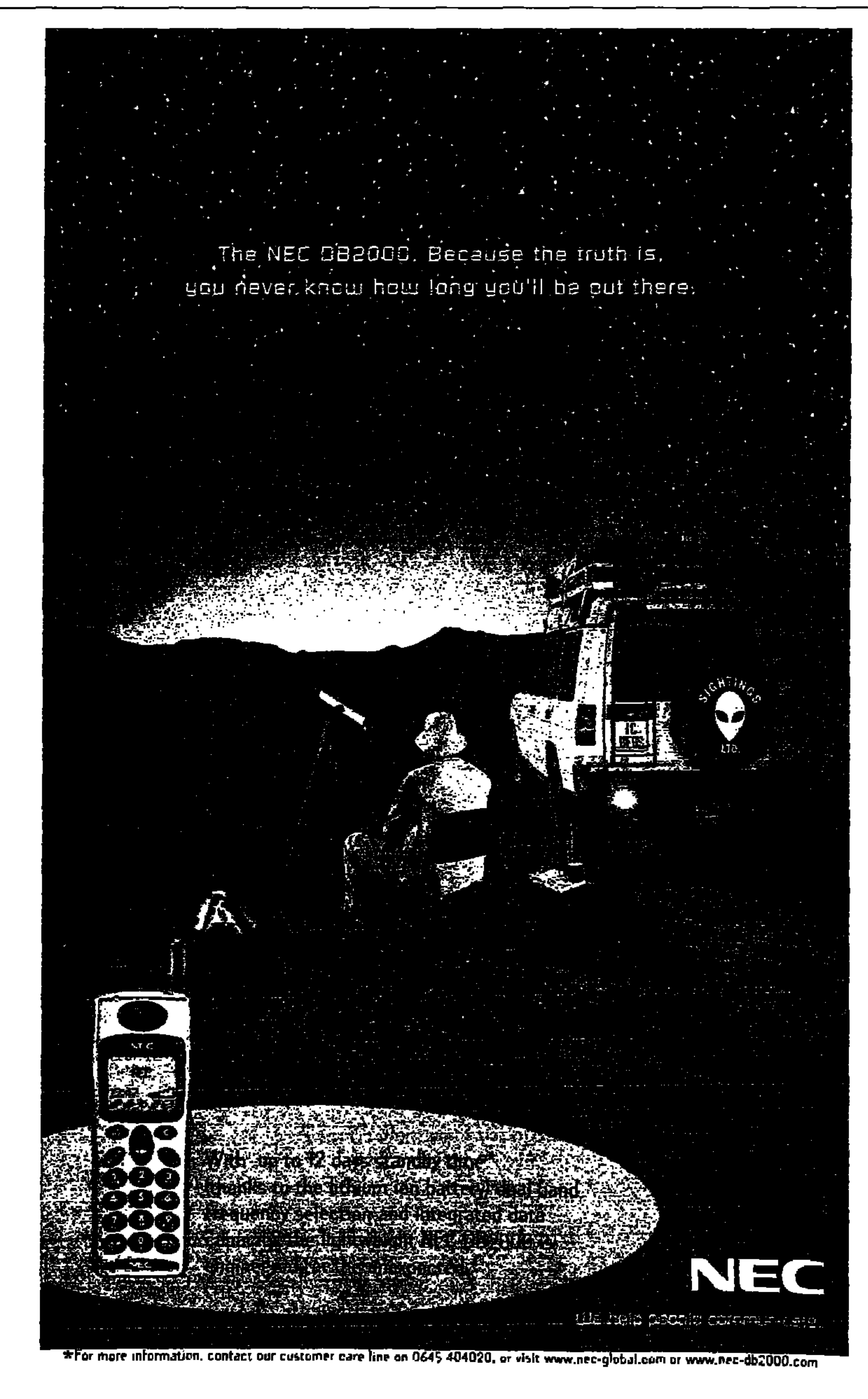
But the Queen of Romance herself, Dame Barbara Cartland, was unimpressed by the concept of an eco-Valentine.

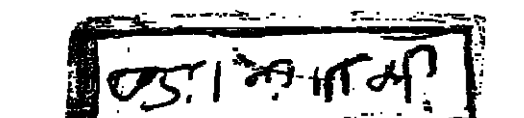
Dame Barbara said she traditionally received jewellery from her admirers and that, given a choice, she would prefer "something pretty to make me look pretty" rather than an aquatic mammal.

☐ The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, 01688 302620. Operation Sea Change, 0171 8658223.

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Harlem's school success story teaches Hague to think small

Tory leader finds inspiration in one of New York's most deprived areas, reports Michael Gove

IN HAMPSHIRE they greet visiting Tories with a curtsy or a posy. In Harlem they're a little less formal. "Peace, love and soul, man, peace, love and soul," whooped 13-year-old Kyllisha Thompson, her hands held aloft in a black power salute to the Leader of the Opposition. William Hague was discovering that the intellectual inspiration for a right-wing revival can come in the most unlikely guises.

And there are few more unlikely places for the Tories to start their journey back to power than Spanish Harlem. It is one of the most deprived quarters of Manhattan, scoring highly in almost every index of social misery, from crime to family income.

But in one area it stands out. The schools of East Harlem have evolved from Manhattan's worst to among its best. And they have done it by breaking free from bureaucracy. Mr Hague's team has identified the Blair Government's itch to centralise as Labour's weakest point. And they came to Harlem to learn how to kick it. The Tory leader is in America this week to share ideas with US rightwingers, themselves working out how to come from behind in the polls to topple an infuriatingly charming incumbent. Later in the week his private jet, which his team jokingly refer to as "Hague Force One", takes him to Texas to discover the secret of "compassionate conservatism" from the state's Governor, George W. Bush Jr. But before meeting the Republican Party's great man he wanted to discover for himself how some of its big ideas were working. Hague's interest in Harlem had been aroused by his policy director Danny Finkelstein who had been impressed by the manner in which the area's schools had changed in a decade.

In the Eighties Harlem school kids had to pass through metal detectors on their way to class, that's if they bothered to go. One teacher in a school Mr Hague visited recalled pupils only a few years ago having to be relieved of their handguns before lessons. Now parents from Manhattan's most prosperous districts fight to have their children enrolled. In London terms it's as though Chelsea mothers were scratching each other's eyes out to send little Jasper to state school in Harlesden.

The reason for the turnaround, Mr Hague discovered, was wrapped up in a word with which the Tories have had their difficulties - devolution. Teachers and parents had grabbed powers from the New York central board of education to run their schools in their ways. They worked imaginatively within the curriculum and reinvented the whole idea of what a school was.

Schools became going social concerns which occupied whatever space they could, rather than institutions tied up in bricks and mortar. The teachers pioneered a scheme whereby several competing schools share one large site, like different stores in one shopping mall. If individual schools fail to attract pupils they can be wound up, and others can take their place, while the building remains intact as a souped-up warehouse for learning.

Yesterday the Tory leader managed to visit four schools in one hour without leaving one building and every one is a success story, whether it is an elementary school or academy of arts. The mixture of local control, flexibility, and an intimate scale can create the atmosphere of a village school in the inner city.

Mr Hague was clearly struck by the Manhattan initiative. Today he will weave praise for its achievements into a speech to the National Press Club in Washington. The speech also champions his own avowedly small-scale idea, the social entrepreneur. The Tory leader believes the individual set free of regulation can bring a buccaneering spirit of enterprise to delivering better education.

As one of Mr Hague's aides put it: "We realise that it's individuals who provide inspiration in education, not the Government."

Mr Hague may have been impressed by Harlem but was Harlem impressed by Mr Hague? "He's kinda cute," admitted Kyllisha Thompson, "but who is he?" It was a query with which none of her school mates could help.

Mr Hague seemed to bask in the anonymity. When the pupils were told that their visitor was Tony Blair's opponent their reaction was a universal Tony who? Those words coming from the students of the performing arts school were music to Mr Hague's ears.

MALCOLM CLARKE

Pupils welcomed William and Ffion Hague warmly, although unsure who they were

Victory blueprint looks to rebirth of the Right

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE will today call for an "intellectual renaissance" on the Right as he sets out his blueprint for the revival of the Conservative Party.

The Tory leader will use a speech in Washington to give his fullest statement yet on how he intends to change his party and turn it into an election-winning force.

Using language more usually associated with new Labour, Mr Hague will say that his party must become "open and inclusive", banishing their image as elitist and interested only in the well-off.

It must become the party of "local initiative and local community" rather than of the centralised state and must win intellectual battles it previously ignored. "While we have been winning public battles about economic issues we have been quietly losing battles about social and values issues."

He wants the Tories to challenge the "chattering classes consensus" that families can do without marriage, and that tougher jail sentences should be opposed on the grounds that prison does not work.

Mr Hague will also say that to succeed the Tories must be "forward-looking and not nostalgic". He will tell members of the National Press Club: "While the spirit of great leaders of the past, of people like Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, can inspire us, we will not be able simply to repeat their agenda."

Dobson tells NHS to cut waiting lists by 20,000

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

FRANK DOBSON yesterday told the National Health Service to cut the hospital waiting list by 20,000 within three months.

The move will put nurses and doctors under even more pressure at a time when winter demands are still high, and critics said that the Health Secretary's preoccupation with waiting list targets threatened to undermine patient care.

The waiting list grew by 11,500 to 1,173,598 during December and is certain to have grown further during January.

Mr Dobson insisted that the NHS was still on target to deliver the Government's promise to cut the list to below the May 1997 level.

Yesterday's figures show that in the three months to the end of December last year the NHS treated 132,000 more non-emergency cases and 40,000 more emergency cases than for the same period in 1997. Casualty departments treated 51,000 more people over the same three-month period.

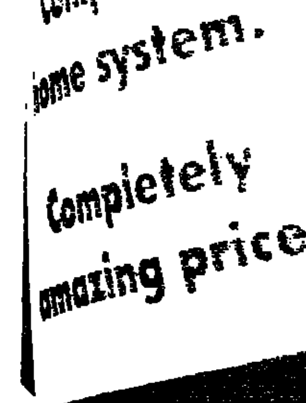
Stephen Thornton, the chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said that staff were already exhausted by the demands of winter, and that the Government "must be realistic about what an already over-stretched NHS can provide."

Peter Hawker, the chairman of the British Medical Association's consultants committee, said: "The time a patient waits for treatment is much more important than the absolute numbers on waiting lists. Because the Government is obsessed with numbers, the risk is that lists are being manipulated and waiting times shifted back down the line so that patients wait longer for their first hospital appointment."

At the end of December, about 21,000 were waiting to see a consultant in order to join the waiting list. A high proportion of those will be referred for hospital treatment.

The shadow Health Secretary, Ann Widdecombe, said: "The Government has been boasting for months that it was reducing waiting lists but now its pledge looks pretty empty.

"We have constantly said that waiting times are far more important than waiting lists and we would like to see specific targets set."





Fabius defends role in Paris blood scandal

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LAURENT FABIUS, the former French Prime Minister, brushed aside allegations of manslaughter against him yesterday as he sought to distance himself from the scandal over HIV-contaminated blood.

Displaying the poise and intellectual precision that once made him the golden boy of Gallic politics, M Fabius, 52, said he had been kept away from the unfolding Aids tragedy by technocrats concerned at "the cost of each life saved".

In front of the 12 MPS and three magistrates who are his judges, the defendant testified that he let officials take the day-to-day decisions which led to the distribution of blood products tainted by HIV, the Aids-related virus.

The former Prime Minister is accused, along with two former Health Ministers, Edmond Hervé, 55, and Georgina Dufoix, 56, of criminal negligence in delaying the introduction of Aids screening tests for blood products because of commercial reasons.

The two ministers are also accused of failing to halt blood donations in prisons, and of failing to ensure the sterilisation of products known to be contaminated.

Yesterday in Paris, as he became the first French Prime Minister to face a courtroom interrogation for more than 50 years, M Fabius gave a rare show of emotion when his hands trembled briefly at the start of his evidence, but soon recovered his composure.

Among haemophiliacs or patients given transfusions of untreated blood, 4,333 contracted Aids and about 1,000 have died.

The defendant described to the specially constituted Court of Justice of the Republic the role of Prime Minister, concluding that he was more a referee than a player. He had acted as soon as officials had alerted him to the Aids risks, he said.

His argument was that he stood above the debate in French government circles that resulted in a scheme to delay a pioneering US-made screening test until a rival French version was on the market.

"I was not the leader of the orchestra in some plot," said the man who became France's youngest ever Prime Minister when he was appointed by the late President Mitterrand in 1984. He was asked whether he took responsibility for the decisions of his officials, but dodged the answer and was not pressed.

The court was shown a handwritten memorandum from Louis Schweitzer, then the Prime Minister's private secretary and now chairman of the car maker, Renault.

In the note, from 1985, M Schweitzer denounced plans to spend between Fr200 million (£21.5 million) and Fr400 million on Aids tests for blood donors. "Can you imagine the cost of each life saved in this way?" he scribbled.

The Prime Minister did nothing to stop this line of thought, but neither did he do anything to encourage it, the court was told.

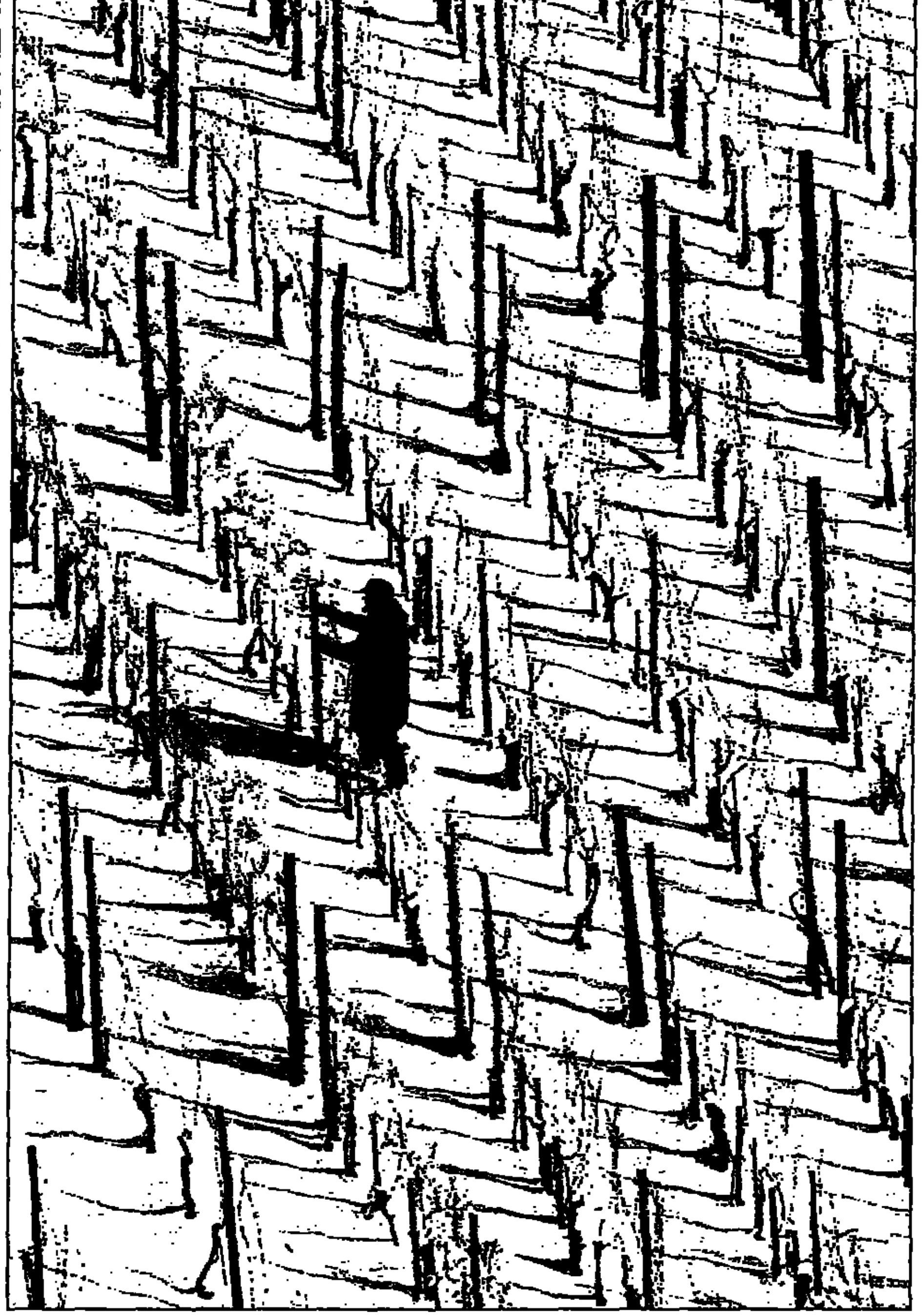
Instead, he gave free rein to the highly qualified and highly paid technocrats who dominate the French government apparatus.

In a second memorandum from 1985, another member of M Fabius's private Cabinet, François Gros, said the weight of public opinion had overcome government reticence over the expense of Aids screening tests. But he added that "astute management" of the timetable — in other words, delaying tactics — would enable the French firm, Pasteur, to capture a large slice of the market at the expense of American competitors.

"I am in favour," M Fabius wrote.

Yesterday he claimed he had simply meant to express approval for automatic Aids screening for donors.

ARND WIEGMANN / REUTERS



Chilled white wine: A grower trims vines in a snow-covered vineyard in the Ahr valley near Dernau, south of Bonn, yesterday as a cold snap gripped most of northern Europe

Mountain snow is dynamited to cut avalanche risk

FROM SUSAN BELL IN CHAMONIX

THE BODY of a young woman killed in Tuesday's avalanche in the French Alps was found by rescue workers yesterday morning, bringing the death toll to 11.

A man believed to have shared the same chalet is still missing. A spokesman for the emergency services said there was now no hope of finding him alive.

Their deaths make this week's disaster in the villages of Le Tour and Montroc, near Chamonix, France's worst avalanche since February 10, 1970, when a youth hostel in Val d'Isère was destroyed, killing 39 and injuring 40. Last year nine children and two adults were killed hiking off-piste.

The speculation that irresponsible property development had contributed to the disaster in which 20 chalets were destroyed was quashed by Pierre Breuil, the senior government representative of Haute Savoie.

"These houses were all in a white [no risk] zone. There hasn't been an avalanche of any kind down this particular corridor since 1908. We thought the houses were safe," he said. Jean-Jack Queyranne, the Deputy Interior Minister, who visited the scene on Wednesday, said the chalets had been built in the 1970s. "A 1991 map showing areas of risk established that a priori this region was risk-free," he said.

However, Jean-Claude Gin, of Chamonix Gendarmerie, who led the massive rescue effort, noted that in the Alps there was no such thing as an area of zero risk. "The Chamonix valley is narrow, with over one hundred classified avalanche corridors. It is impossible to make everything safe," he said.

Weather experts reported yesterday that the risk of another serious avalanche was estimated to be four on a five-point scale. Arctic temperatures are slowing the rate at which the layers of snow are consolidating, increasing the threat of another serious avalanche over the next few days.

Local authorities ordered the use of dynamite to blast snow from the mountains in an attempt to avoid another catastrophe. Seventy homes in the area were evacuated. "In four days we have had record snowfall — almost 6ft — in a single valley. Nothing like it has been seen since records began in the 1950s," said Michelle Charlet, Mayor of Chamonix.

At 5am yesterday an avalanche hit the hamlet of Les Houches, near Chamonix, flattening three chalets and damaging a hotel. There were no casualties reported.



www.chamonix.com — Official site for Chamonix resort with latest reports on weather

www.csac.org — Lists information on avalanches around the world.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Habibie favours free East Timor

Jakarta: Indonesia's President Habibie is in favour of independence for the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and wants a settlement by next January to end the burden on the rest of his country, he said. "If the Government should be asked for a suggestion on East Timor, my suggestion is, just give East Timor independence," he told representatives of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We do not want to be burdened by the problem of East Timor as of January 1, 2000." Last month the Government made a surprise announcement that it would propose independence for East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1975, if the people rejected an offer of autonomy. *(AFP)*

Amazon boat deaths

Brasilia: At least three people were killed and 60 to 70 were missing after a boat carrying 150 passengers capsized on a river in the Brazilian Amazon, police said. The accident occurred on the Madeira river, 372 miles from the state capital, Manaus. Unconfirmed reports said passengers watching a televised football match on the upper deck tilted the vessel while cheering a goal and that the vessel was overloaded. *(Reuters)*

Nazi loot returned

Vienna: The Austrian Ministry of Culture has ordered state museums to return a multimillion-pound collection of 250 art treasures to the successors of Louis and Clarice Rothschild, 51 years after they were looted by the Nazis and then illegally retained by the postwar Austrian Government (Nigel Glass writes). These are the first objects to be returned under a law enacted last November.

The art of escape



Oslo: Police are hunting Paal Enger, who was serving a six-year prison sentence for stealing *The Scream*, right, by Edvard Munch. Enger escaped during an educational trip to Oslo international airport. The painting, a Norwegian national treasure, was stolen in 1994 but recovered undamaged with the aid of Scotland Yard. Enger has recently appeared in a television advertisement as an "art expert". *(AP)*

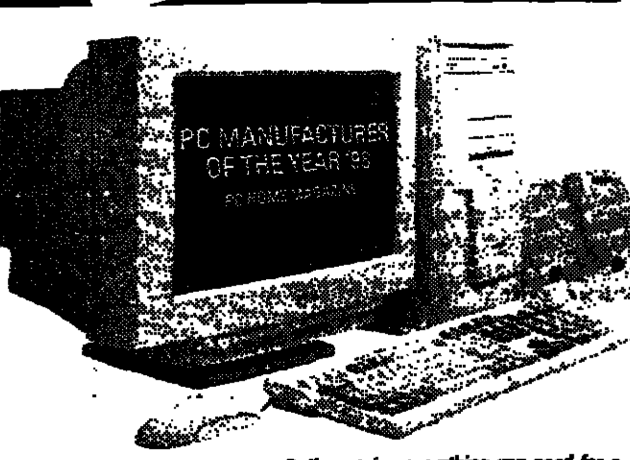
Ranking royal

Madrid: Spain's Crown Prince Felipe, 31, has been freed from the need to sit exams to gain promotion as an officer in the armed services (Giles Tremlett writes). A special law passed by parliament cleared the way for him to rise through the ranks without having to compete with others and the press speculated that the Government might elevate him directly to the rank of general.

Through glass darkly

Jerusalem: Suggesting a possible change in its interrogation methods, the Israeli Shin Bet security service this week covered detainees' eyes only with dark sunglasses rather than the customary urine-drenched hoods, a lawyer said. She said a client told her of the new practice. Israel's Supreme Court has been hearing an appeal against Shin Bet interrogation methods by human rights groups and detainees. *(AP)*

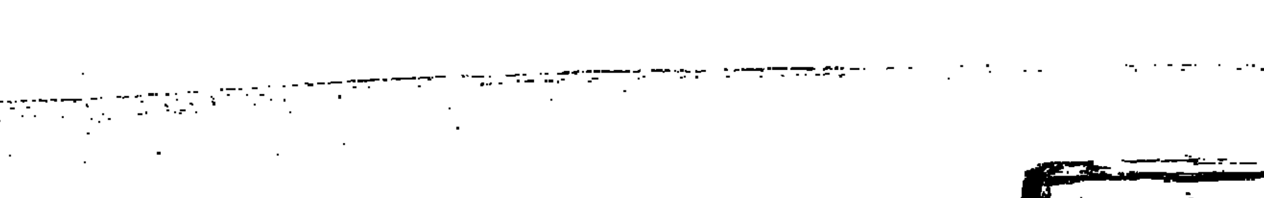














President spared by dithering Senate

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is set to be acquitted today of the two articles of impeachment against him as Republican opposition crumbled, bringing a sudden end to the 386-day Monica Lewinsky scandal which threatened to destroy his presidency.

The White House was a "gloat-free zone", said Mr Clinton's advisers, denying reports that they were bent on revenge in next year's elections.

Joe Lockhart, the presidential spokesman, said it would be political folly for the White House to target the seats of the 13 managers of the House of Representatives who mounted the prosecution of Mr Clinton, and who failed in their attempt to remove him from office. But Clinton aides could barely conceal their jubilation and sense of vindication as it appeared that the President might escape without even a Senate motion of censure. Yesterday, with 100 senators locked behind closed doors for the finale of the drama which has consumed the nation's politics, it appeared that they would muster only a letter reprimanding his behaviour.

As the waters began to close over one of the most extraordinary passages in American history, leaders of both parties said that the country's final verdict on the President's affair with the trainee who brought him pizza would not be apparent until after the 2000 elections.

But the inquiry into Mr Clinton's behaviour initiated by Kenneth Starr, special counsel which has cost more then $40 million (£25 million), generated more than 60,000 pages of testimony, and dislodged conventional soap operas from the nation's television screens, has left both parties fearful about the fallout. Mr Starr's inquiries into the Lewinsky affair alone have cost $4.4 million. Her legal fees exceed $2 million, to be paid by her father, a Beverly Hills cancer specialist. Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary have incurred a staggering personal debt of more than $8 million in personal legal expenses to rebut the Lewinsky, Paula Jones and Whitewater allegations.

The figure comes from a new fund-raising appeal issued by the Clinton Legal Expense Trust. It is far beyond the President's total compensation or his family's net worth, said the trust's founder, David Pryor, a former senator.

On Capitol Hill, however, the House Judiciary Committee spent at least $1 million pursuing its investigation of the articles of impeachment. The final reckoning is not in for the Senate trial.

It can be argued that senators would have been sitting anyway. But their additional Saturday sessions have run up hefty extra bills for staff overtime, security and other costs. One specific waste of taxpayers' money was the $260 spent by Republican leaders on two out-of-print editions of a book on impeachment by Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

If they had waited two weeks they could have bought new paperback copies for $12. The cheapest item to have been accounted for in the scandal is the hat-pin Mr Clinton gave Ms Lewinsky. Its value was appraised at $3.

Last night, three Republican senators from the party's moderate northeastern wing looked set to vote against their colleagues: Arlen Specter from Pennsylvania, James Jeffords from Vermont and John Chafee from Rhode Island. But much of the pressure for the Senate to issue some form of formal rebuke came from Democrats who do not want voters to think that they have condoned the President's behaviour.



Kal's view in the *Baltimore Sun* of President Clinton's survival of the Republican attempts to conjure him away

The master of comebacks is clear winner

A final verdict must await the next elections, says Bronwen Maddox

The true verdict on the Lewinsky saga — and on Bill Clinton's presidency — will come with the elections in 2000. But as the Senate gathered yesterday to set the seal on the saga which has consumed politics for the past 386 days, many of the winners and losers were already clear.

The biggest winner is President Clinton, beyond dispute. True, he has become the second President in American history to be impeached. His affair with the young girl who brought him pizza will be his most eye-catching contribution to the history books. But he survived the three clamorous spikes of pressure to quit — in February last year, in August, and in October, setting in stone his reputation as the Comeback Kid.

The biggest loser? Newt Gingrich. Once, the firebrand from Georgia seemed like Mr Clinton's Republican doppelganger: Southern, charismatic, with a personal life more turbulent than that of his colleagues, but with the drive to reform his party and force his agenda through. Democrats' unexpected success in the November elections brought down the guillotine on an already flagging political life. Kenneth Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel also rank as losers.

If Congress votes to keep the Office in June — far from a certainty — it is likely to curtail its powers sharply. But Mr Starr still carries a hidden sting: as he has warned, he can still pursue Mr Clinton with criminal indictments.

Democrats are noisily boasting that they are winners. Whether this is really true will be clear only in the 2000 elections. Fund-raising has stayed unexpectedly strong, and they stand a chance of regaining the House of Representatives, lost to Gingrich's Republican revolutionaries in 1994 after 40 years of Democratic control.

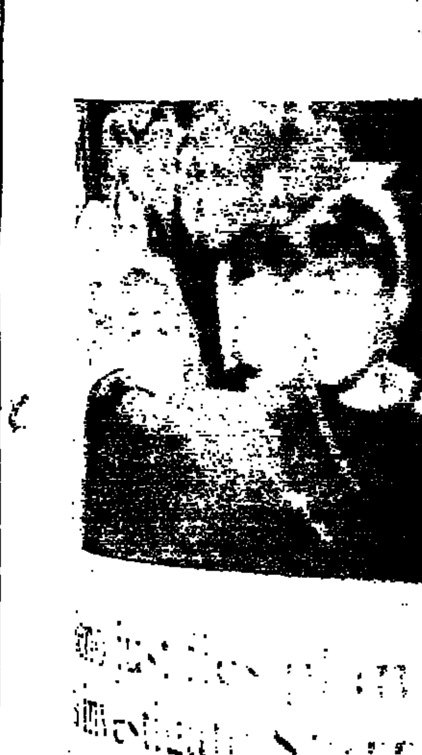
But some Democrats also fear that without Mr Clinton's pragmatic centrism, forcing through many bitter compromises, the party will lack unity on the campaign trail. They also fear that while Vice-President Al Gore may appear to voters like a safe pair of hands, the comparison could also highlight his woodenness. So although Republicans in the House now appear to be losers, having sought to bring down the President and failed, they could draw strength from their setback by 2000. But they need quickly to find something resembling an agenda.

Mr Clinton neatly took advantage of their intoxication by the saga to punch holes in their policies with the September budget and with the State of the Union address last month. The trickier calculation is whether American government itself will have changed from the past year.

There is a case for saying that the saga boosted the influence of the Cabinet, after years of waning. Mr Clinton would probably not have survived had his Cabinet not stood by their man, even though he had lied to them about the affair, and allowed them to go on television to repeat that lie.

But grandiose judgments that the scandal has caused lasting damage to public support for the Presidency and for Congress seem overstated. "The national government is not like a hotel room that you can occupy for a night and trash like a rock star," said William Glaston, a professor at the University of Maryland. Pollsters agree that the public is disillusioned with government. But some see that mood as a luxury of prosperity, rather than a reaction to Lewinsky. Whatever the cause, as the mid-term elections showed, voters still care intensely about local politics. That trend will strengthen the hand of big-state governors such as George W. Bush in Texas, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination if he chooses to stand.

Politicians might consider it heresy, but one final possible verdict, looking back from 2000, is that the Lewinsky saga will have made little impact on the course of the nation's politics, for all the $50 million spent and the hours of live television coverage.



A star is born as America hails Lewinsky video

President's paramour finds fame and fans, writes Damian Whitworth

SHE was poised, she was frank, she cracked jokes and put her stumbling interrogators in their place with quick-witted ripostes to any misjudged questions. The Full Monica, shown for the first time last week and set to become a television classic, revealed that President Clinton's one-time paramour has the potential to become a star.

For more than a year the world was bewildered by Monica Lewinsky. Her testimony was voluminous, but there had been no chance to study her in person, apart from fleeting glimpses of her hopping in and out of cars. The photographs — particularly the one of her head looking huge and oval beneath a mountain of hair — made her a figure of fun and comics questioned the President's taste. Tabloids, quick to spot that her weight fluctuates wildly, documented her chocolate binges.

Tapes of her conversations with Linda Tripp recorded a whiney, West Coast brat. But suddenly she is popular. The reviews of her videotaped deposition have been raves. There have been reports of diners standing up in restaurants to applaud her. When she came to Washington to give her testimony she was cheered in the street and her hotel lobby. Her spokesman says that she is looking forward to getting on with her life. But that is unlikely to be a secluded existence.

As soon as Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, can be persuaded to give his permission, she will record an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters in which she will be thoroughly debriefed about the affair and how she now feels about the President.

This will be followed by another interview for Britain's Channel 4, to be conducted by Jon Snow, for which she will be paid in the region of £400,000. The television executives are hoping that they can get Ms Lewinsky's story before the book she has written with Andrew Morton hits bookshelves next month. The deal for the book is understood to be in the region of $1 million (£615,000) and she will then be well on the way to covering legal fees believed to exceed $2 million.

In truth, money does not seem to be a big concern for Ms Lewinsky whose stepfather, Peter Strauss, has a large fortune. She has just bought a house in Beverly Hills and zips around in a new Jeep. There even seems to be some joy in her love life: she has a new boyfriend who is a lawyer with a New York independent film company.

It was a baseball cap she wore with his company's logo on it that perhaps best demonstrated exactly what Ms Lewinsky is worth. When she was seen in it, television stations were inundated with people trying to find out where they could buy it. The former White House trainee could make a fortune in endorsements. But her forte, if she does not — or cannot — return to anonymity, may be television. There are more interviews, of course. And she could tour chat shows for a long time. But it is unlikely she will want to be forever asked about her dalliance in the Oval Office. Perhaps, after answering so many, she should ask the questions and become a talk-show host.

Elinor Smeal of the Feminist Majority said: "She will be enough of a celebrity to nail a good job with some entertainment company that wants glitz. I am willing to bet she will not lack for offers. Sure, she had a tough year, but she will do fine. She is a modern woman. She knew what she wanted and, to a degree, she got it. She has a good opinion of herself and it shows."



A Washington demonstrator outside the Capitol yesterday demands a jail sentence for President Clinton. Inside, support for a conviction was ebbing



Faces in a crowd: the picture that gave the game away

Reno justifies plan to investigate Starr

Washington: The US Attorney-General, Janet Reno, denied yesterday any political motivation in moving towards an investigation of alleged misconduct by Kenneth Starr's prosecutors in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Mrs Reno also maintained the Justice Department has not been in contact with the White House about its planned investigation — a step long demanded by President Clinton's lawyers and his congressional supporters.

"I have tried my level best to do this the right way, to ensure there was no effort whatsoever to interfere with his investigation," Mrs Reno said of Mr Starr, whose investigation led to Mr Clinton's impeachment trial.

"I am convinced that nothing has been done. But I will continue to work to ensure that result," she said. *(Reuters)*



Princess Royal may review her role after Games bribery scandal

By John Goodbody and Alan Hamilton



THE Princess Royal issued a veiled threat to review her position as a member of the tainted International Olympic Committee last night.

She is keeping a low profile, but is known to be disturbed by the "cash for votes" scandal which will come to a head at a meeting in Lausanne next month. It has already led to the resignations of four IOC members and recommendations to expel five others, and threatens the presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch. A spokesman for the Princess Royal said: "The Princess's view is that she has no reason, at present, to abandon her membership of the IOC. She still hopes to do what she can from within the organisation and make herself heard. She feels that she can still play a useful role. She was, after all, an Olympic competitor herself."

The attitude of the Princess Royal contrasts with that of other European royalty. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands has suspended his IOC membership *and says he will withdraw if Señor Samaranch fails to clean up the body.*

The Spanish Government has also advised Crown Prince Felipe that now is not the time to take up an offer to join the 115-strong organisation. The Princess Royal, who competed in the equestrian events at the 1976 Games, has always been known for her refusal to accept gifts from bidding cities. She always returns them — without thanks.

She will not attend the IOC meeting in Lausanne on March 17 and 18, when there *will be votes on whether to expel* the five members who are accused of accepting money or favours when Salt Lake City successfully bid for the 2002 Winter Games. She will be on an official visit to Japan, New Zealand and the Philippines. However, the outcome of the vote is almost certain to colour the Princess's view of her continued tenure as one of Britain's two IOC members.

☐ **New York:** The Olympics' largest corporate backers yesterday launched an effort to change sponsorship arrangements, including the possible *incorporation of "morals clauses"* (James Bone writes).

The 11 official sponsors, including Coca-Cola Co, Time Warner, McDonald's Corp and IBM, met as a group for the first time yesterday with Olympic officials. Representing the IOC at the New York meeting were Michael Payne, the Games' British marketing director, and Richard Pound, the Canadian who is vice-president for marketing.

The sponsors, who have each paid an average of £25 million to add their name to the Olympics, are reported to be *preparing a list of demands* for negotiations over sponsorship contracts that come up for renewal after the Sydney Games in 2000.

Even though the New York meeting was scheduled a month ago, the sponsors' readiness to act in unison could spell trouble for the IOC.

So far the major Olympic sponsors have remained committed to the Games, with only one company publicly breaking ranks.

John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., announced this week that it would not *spend £12 million to advertise* on NBC television's Olympic coverage next year because of the IOC's handling of the scandal.

The company also ordered the Olympic rings to be removed from posters at sports arenas in its hometown of Boston.

Salt Lake City's Olympic Committee announced an internal shake-up yesterday that included imposing new conflict-of-interest rules and hiring a new chief, Mitt Romney. The committee's board of trustees was increased from *33 to 50 and stripped of its* decision-making authority by being turned into an advisory body for a new management committee of 20. Three leading committee members also resigned.

British protest raises tension over Gibraltar

Madrid demands an end to 'illicit activities' on the Rock, writes Phil Webster

TENSIONS between Britain and Spain escalated sharply yesterday after the Government accused Madrid of breaking European law over its threat to stop accepting Gibraltar driving licences.

Ministers promised to "defend with determination" the legitimate rights of Gibraltar as the centuries-old dispute over the territory threatened to erupt again.

In the Commons passions were high as MPs from all sides condemned Madrid for suggesting that it would ban aircraft from Gibraltar flying over Spain.

But there were demands for Britain to go further, with one Labour MP suggesting that a Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel should be sent to the area, and accusations from the Tories that the Government was engaged in a policy of retreat and surrender.

Madrid gave a warning it would adopt a "tougher" stance on Gibraltar, saying that Anglo-Spanish talks on the territory's future had reached a "watershed".

Ramón de Miguel, the junior Foreign Minister, said Spain had maintained an "open and flexible" policy towards Gibraltar since 1996. But, he said, Spain "can no longer tolerate that [the territory's] prosperity is being made parasitically" on the back of the Spanish economy.

Apart from its sovereign claim on Gibraltar, Spain was demanding the immediate end of "illicit and irregular" activities there, Señor de Miguel said, without elaborating.

In London, Conservatives *claimed that in their desire to* build a close relationship with Spain, the Government had given the impression that it was prepared to soften its line on sovereignty. This was denied by ministers who said that the position remained as it always had been.

The row, which threatened to sour the previously warm relations between London and Madrid, blew up over a dispute about fishing rights in the waters off Gibraltar. Tensions were raised last month when Spain — which has long contested British sovereignty over the Rock — tightened border controls after the seizure by police of one of its vessels for illegal fishing.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, telephoned Peter Caruana, the colony's Chief Minister, yesterday to assure him of Britain's full support, while Downing Street denounced Spain's "unacceptable threatening behaviour".

On Wednesday, Peter Torry, the British Ambassador in Madrid, lodged a protest with the Spanish Government after police turned back drivers at the Gibraltar border.

Sir Stephen Wall, Britain's permanent representative in Brussels, was last night writing to Jacques Santer, President of the European Commis*sion, to express the Govern*ment's concerns over the Spanish action. The free movement of European Union citizens is a central part of EU law.

A spokesman for Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said that Britain was going back on an agreement settled last October which should have resolved the dispute over fishing rights.

However, Mr Caruana said the row had been manufactured by Spain. "This isn't about fishing. This is about sovereignty," he said.

Leading article, page 23


DAVID MARTINEZ / AP

Cars wait to cross from Gibraltar to Spain yesterday after Madrid tightened border controls and said it may not accept Gibraltar driving licences

Patients in the front line as Spanish curbs bite

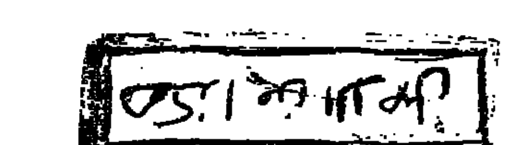
From Dominique Searle in Gibraltar

TWENTY outpatients at St Bernard's Hospital on Gibraltar are the first victims of the uncertainty that Spain's threat to restrict access to and from the Rock has created.

Juan Diego Poyatos, a specialist from Málaga who visits monthly to measure patients for limbs and girdles, was given a warning by Spanish Interior Ministry officials that if he entered Gibraltar he could face difficulties returning because of the specialist *equipment he carries with* him. The measuring clinic has been postponed indefinitely, the chief physiotherapist confirmed last night.

A campaign to bring dialysis equipment to the Rock has been given priority as patients flooded the *Gibraltar Chronicle with letters demanding* that the local government provide facilities on the Rock. They said that they had been distressed by the controls at the frontier and the way inspections of ambulances have been carried out as they cross to facilities in neighbouring *La Linea. During a protest by* fishermen at the frontier a fortnight ago Spanish police authorised protesters to search the ambulances.

The blockade at the frontier continued yesterday. A few cars took an hour to cross. In normal circumstances the rate *is at least six a minute. Traffic* into Gibraltar has dropped by two thirds, the Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed. Madrid has also threatened to ban civil aircraft flying over Spain.



Kosovo gloom as threat of airstrikes grows

From Tom Walker in Rambouillet

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Védrine, returned to the Kosovo peace conference yesterday for the second time in 48 hours, amid speculation that the talks were in danger of collapse.

Despite objections from France and Russia, Nato intervention may now be inevitable. A Nato representative was said to have been involved in the talks for the first time.

In Paris, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said in an interview broadcast yesterday that a decision had been taken to bomb Serb targets if the talks fail due to Serbian recalcitrance.

"If the Serbs are responsible for the fact that the talks fail, then it will be Serb targets that are hit," she told France 3 television in the interview, conducted on Wednesday. "Our diplomacy is backed by the use of force and that decision, to use force, has been made if the talks don't progress."

She told ethnic Albanians they also would pay a price if they undermined the talks. "If the KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army] and the Albanians are responsible, then they will lose the support of the international community that they depend on in order to pursue their goals," she said.

The next week promises to make or break the talks. A Contact Group document will be discussed that demands both Albanians and Serbs substantially reduce their fighting units in Kosovo.

The Serbs must withdraw all their Ministry of Interior special police, including the much-feared SAJ anti-terrorist squads. The Serb police presence should be reduced from about 20,000 men to about 2,500, and the Yugoslav Army should scale down its presence to leave no more than 1,500 troops patrolling a five-kilometre (about three miles) zone along the borders with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

On the Albanian side, the KLA must disarm its fighters of all weapons larger than the 7.62mm Kalashnikov calibre. The KLA must withdraw to positions at least one kilometre from police stations and Yugoslav Army bases and move all its heavy weapons into cantonment sites open to Nato inspection. Up to 10,000 Nato troops could enter Kosovo by the end of the month.

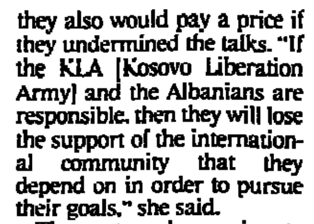
The prospects of either the Serbs or KLA willingly falling into line with such demands before the expiry of the seven-day deadline for completing the talks are slim. In a briefing yesterday Mr Cook said: "Most of the agreement will be made in the last 24 hours before the deadline."

The leading personality in the Albanian delegation in the château is Hashim Thaci, a political science graduate with Marxist leanings. Mr Thaci, 29, who heads the KLA's political directorate, is totally opposed to the youthful and rapidly developing force being disbanded. If the KLA is to disappear, the Albanians imagine it will be absorbed into a new police force for Kosovo.

The Albanians are increasingly wary of the Franco-Russian bid to water down the scale of international intervention, and Mr Thaci has been demanding that Nato should be a signatory to any deal.

The Serbs yesterday countered this by staging a unilateral signing of the ten "principles" under which the conference was convened, which include the inviolability of Yugoslavia's current borders.

Mr Cook responded by regretting that Belgrade was still insisting that both sides should sign the principles.



Robin Cook at Rambouillet yesterday to check on progress



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS / EPA

Ethnic Albanians carry the coffins of 40 massacre victims to their hillside graves yesterday. Mourners were told: "Briefly, an evil visited Racak"

Death keeps a welcome on Racak hillside

Anthony Loyd in Racak sees survivors of a deserted village briefly reunited as 40 victims of a massacre are buried

THERE is little remaining for the people of Racak to lose. A month ago 45 men were slain by Serb security forces. Too frightened to remain in the village, the survivors then lost their homes. Dignity was the next to go: for nearly a month the bereaved had their dead withheld from them as the bullet-riddled corpses were cut up by Serb and Belarus pathologists, and then by a Finnish team.

Meanwhile, the Serb and Albanian propaganda machines pulled the truth of what happened to the men one way and then another. One side claimed that the casualties were armed guerrillas, the other that they were unarmed civilians. No provisional report has been released yet by the Belarussians or Finns. It seems likely that their findings will disappear into the same void as those of similar examinations after massacres in Sarajevo during the Bosnian war.

However, yesterday at last, the remaining 40 dead were laid to rest.

On the previous day they were returned to the mosque in Racak. The small village lies on an alluvial plain between two ridges and is looked down upon by Serb troops to the east and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas to the west. Their fears assuaged by the presence of observers from the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe, the moment to mourn was the first time the villagers had returned home.

Weeping continued yesterday as men laboured on a nearby hillside to carve graves from the rocky soil beneath the snow. They were directed by an imam with a compass who pointed eastwards over the Serb-held slopes to Mecca. Thousands of Albanians from nearby villages trooped to Racak through black trees and waterlogged fields — a tangible landscape of grief. In the early afternoon the coffins were borne up the slopes. William Walker, the head of the Kosovo Verification Mission, spoke among the piled graveside earth. In spite of so many unanswered questions about the killings, he remained unrepentant about his earlier criticism of the Serb forces.

"Today we stand united against those who committed this crime against humanity," he said, his vitriol dampened by a monotone delivery and repeated pauses for translation. "The deaths in Racak demand justice, and justice must be seen to be done. Even in the midst of conflict and war, certain rules of decency and humanity should be observed. By the manner of their treatment before death, by the way they met their deaths, by what befell their mortal remains in the aftermath, these rules were repeatedly violated. Briefly, an evil visited Racak."

A small posse of KLA fighters loitered among the mourners. Like everyone else, they fell silent and stared skywards as a Serb helicopter passed unseen in the clouds above, the throb of its rotors transforming the mood immediately into subjugation.

For an army that has won not a single victory, the presence of the media must have been some consolation: if you can win a war by losing it on television, the KLA's fortunes are in the ascendance.

As soon as the graves were filled and Mr Walker left, the mourners collected their abandoned stray livestock, gathered every portable household provision, and fled once more — leaving Racak empty and desolate, and the graves alone on the hill.

London engine firm denies Eritrea sales

By Michael Evans
Defence Editor

A BRITISH company reacted angrily yesterday to accusations that it had sold engines from Russian T54 and T55 tanks to Eritrea, which is currently involved in renewed border fighting with Ethiopia.

A Customs investigation in Belgium has been under way since October last year when the 80 engines were seized in Antwerp. British Customs is also involved in the inquiry. The seizure has come to light following a resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday which called on all countries to impose a voluntary embargo on arms sales to Eritrea and Ethiopia.

JMT Charlesworth, which trades as Global Services, based in south London, admitted yesterday that the engines used in Russian bulldozers were the same as those that powered T55 tanks. But its engines were to have been used by a road construction company in Eritrea, it said. A spokeswoman said an export licence to sell the spare parts and four tonne trucks to Eritrea had been approved.

☐ **Paris:** France has sent an anti-aircraft frigate to protect the Red Sea republic of Djibouti in response to the use of modern Russian-made planes by the warring Eritrean and Ethiopian air forces. *(Reuters)*



The Palio, traditionally run in the heart of Siena

Siena race gallops into trouble

Rome: The future of the world's most ancient horse race, the Palio in Siena, Tuscany, is at risk after claims of doping and cruelty (Richard Owen writes).

Two horses died in last summer's Palio, a no-holds-barred bareback race staged since the 13th century on the Campo, the medieval square in the heart of Siena. There is fierce rivalry between the contradas, or guilds, who race the horses. The race has drawn foreign visitors, including Tony Blair and the Duchess of York. But the animal rights activists claimed a victory last year when Mr Blair did not go.

US missile plan fuels build-up by China

From James Pringle in Hong Kong and Ian Brodie in Washington

CHINA'S deployment of more than 100 ballistic missiles in coastal regions opposite Taiwan is its response to discussions in Washington of an American scheme to place parts of Asia, possibly including Taiwan, under a US missile defence umbrella, military sources said yesterday.

Beijing perceives the Theatre Missile Defence scheme as "a threat to the mainland" and an aggressive move meant to contain China.

The US proposals, now in the planning stages, appear to have ended the Sino-American honeymoon which began last year when President Clinton visited Beijing after President Jiang Zemin had toured the US, diplomats said.

The dispute is the biggest challenge to Washington's growing strategic links with China since the US sent two aircraft carriers to the region three years ago after China had test-fired missiles close to the island during military exercises in the Taiwan Strait.

Diplomats say the controversy could muddy the waters for the planned first official visit of Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, to the US in the spring.

The huge Chinese build-up — the Pentagon, for its part, believes Beijing has stationed up to 200 M9 and M11 medium-range ballistic missiles on its side of the Strait — is believed to be one of the world's heaviest concentrations of strategic weapons in a single limited region.

The new tensions have been exacerbated by the possibility that Taiwan — which the Chinese Communist Government regards as a breakaway province, not an independent nation — could shelter under this anti-missile umbrella being considered by America and Japan.

The idea has alarmed Beijing, which looks on the so-called Theatre Missile Defence as an aggressive move aimed at containing China. Washington said initially the idea was a defence against North Korea's expanding missile programme, but Administration officials say that China cannot expect the missiles stationed in its southeastern region to be ignored.

A warning against extending the Theatre Missile Defence to Taiwan was delivered last month by Sha Zukeng, China's outspoken director-general of arms control and disarmament.

In an interview with the American publication, *Defence News*, he said: "My God, that's really the limit." He continued ominously: "It constitutes a serious infringement of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also represents a deliberate move on the part of the US to provoke the entire Chinese people. Such a move will bring serious consequences."

The National Security Council and the State Department are aware of the need to maintain President Clinton's policy of a "strategic dialogue" with China, which includes neither nation targeting its intercontinental ballistic missiles at the other. Pentagon analysts argue that they are taking a more pragmatic view of the region, which its critics see as a pro-Taiwan bias. As a result, a secret Pentagon report on the Chinese build-up has languished.

It was completed before Christmas by Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary for Asian and Pacific affairs, but is awaiting the signature of William Cohen, the Defence Secretary. The delay has been attributed to efforts by the State Department to soften its impact.

My secret fall from grace

Joanne Webster set high standards for her children. She is a respected member of her community. But privately she lives in poverty and she shoplifts

It was only because old habits die hard that I caught myself saying the other day "Thanks, God," to the vision of frosty branches against a brilliantly blue sky in Christchurch Meadow. "If you're there, you bastard," I added, "which you're not."

I wondered then when the transition from utter belief to utter disbelief had come about, and could not remember. Only that it had come, along with a lot of other changes I could not exactly date. Well, we all change a bit I suppose, as life trundles on, but I had changed completely, it seemed to me.

I had been good once: sweet, industrious, idealistic, loyal, devout. "Your fault," I said to the non-existent God. "You tried me too hard. You should have known I'd fall. You're supposed to know everything."

But I didn't care. I was happy in Christchurch Meadow, long free of the demands of that tyrannical God, of the burdens of sin, conscience, duty.

Not that I'd tried to rid myself of the shackles. They'd sort of taken themselves off over the years. Not readily, either. Various tragedies came and went in my early years: the violent death of my brother; my mother's suicide; my young husband's shatteringly sudden death, and I remained the same person clinging on, a bit desperately perhaps, to faith, honour, ideals.

It was in rearing three children alone that the rot began to set in. I had to support them, too, and it was a long climb, especially as I was inclined to be such an idealistic, moralistic mother, forever preaching on about honesty and goodness etc.

My one aim was to see my children grow up "truly good", as I put it to myself. Angelically perfect, was what I had in mind. Certainly I put intense effort into bringing them up — as well as into my teaching job — unaided, may I add, by any of the social services, none of which ever showed any interest in these three fatherless children.

My first slip off the pedestal was when the attractive husband of a friend made an impassioned pass. Which I, of course, rebuffed. But this delicious dish came back again and again and I, the blood afire at last, surrendered.

The guilt was grim beyond words, and to dilute it I took another lover. This worked. At the same time I became less preachy about my teenage children's love lives. They shortly went off to college where they all managed to survive, thanks to their thrifty upbringing, without getting into debt, which is the nearest they ever got to angelic perfection.

> My children don't know I take charity

As for me, I had another love affair. Foolishly sad, I missed my children and I couldn't get a job. Any career I might have had had been fragmented by childcare. With dependants' allowances all whipped away, financial problems hit hard.

I did some supply teaching, charring, a stint in a factory packing pickled onions. I fell into depression. I used to wake up crying in the night. It was perhaps during one of those nights that I knew for sure and for ever that there was nobody up there looking out for me. I was admitted into hospital for treatment. I recovered.

I was too old for more lovers, and finally I got old enough for the old-age pension, currently £65 a week. Try living on it. I began selling small antiques (about which I knew nothing) in markets. That is no way to make a living.

But it *is* fun despite the straitened circumstances. I am, after all, used to them. I used to tell myself that there was satisfaction in making ends meet, and certainly nobody ever knew of my everlasting battle to do so. Except perhaps one, an eccentric, wealthy teaching colleague who offered to give me £100,000 because I was "working too bloody hard". I was horrified. Never for one moment did it occur to me in those long-ago, stiff-necked days to take it.



"Some good has come of my downfall. I understand my fellow man better"

Since then, of course, I've slipped. Making ends meet has become much more of a chore, and ways of doing it become fewer. I occasionally engineer small sums by forcing the privatised utilities to stick by their financial guarantees, a difficult and prolonged business requiring threats of media publicity, but lucrative, since God knows how often they fail us.

Again, if I pick up money in the street I keep it — see the 30-year-old me doing *that*. The most I've found in my searches so far is £30.

Moreover, in contrast to that long-ago shocked refusal of a big handout, I am now in receipt of regular small ones from a charity that exists to help professional people who have fallen on hard times. I don't care, although nobody knows about it, not even my children who, giving to other charities on their own account, still see me as everlastingly capable.

They might also find it hard to see me as a shoplifter, although I am. I quite often shoplift my daily paper from the supermarket. The only reason I don't take a whole lot more is that I don't have the nerve.

Some good, however, has come of my downfall for I now have a far greater understanding of my fellow man. Indeed, I can see right into the criminal mind. And sympathise.

Perhaps the Social Services Minister should change places with me.

● *The author has written under a pseudonym*

Ode from the bard of Westminster

MAN ON THE SIDE

JOE JOSEPH

The minute Tony Blair heard this week that the Poetry Society is planning to appoint a Parliamentary Poet, he called in Alastair Campbell. The resident poet will spend two days a week immortalising the life of the Palace of Westminster, and running workshops for aspiring Wordsworths. But Blair ordered Campbell to halt the search for a suitable candidate.

It's not that Blair begrudged anyone the money — the salary of £5,000 for a six-month stint wouldn't keep a new Labour Cabinet minister in Lear jets for even a week.

No, what Tony realised straightaway was that here was a chance to speak directly to the nation, without the media mangling his poetic vision of the country he wants Britain to become. The PM has already sent these stanzas — part job application, part homage to Sir John Betjeman — to the Poetry Society:

How To Get On In Parliamentary Society

Phone for the poet, said Tony,
As Cook is a little unnerved,
Though the papers all think I should sack him,
He's a minister I want to preserve.

If only he'd stay out of trouble,
He's like Peter, who's weak for a loan,
But with Robin it's brandy and women,
And also, now, Sierra Leone.

Phoney Tony is what people call me,
They think I've two faces, you see,
Which shows just how little they know me,
Because actually I've always had three.

Let's get rid of all PM's Questions,
I want all the nation agog,
From now on I'll address them directly,
As a guest on the JY Prog.

I must talk to people in person,
That's Alastair Campbell's advice,
Avoid all the riff-raff on Fleet Street,
My own show on telly'd be nice.

And Gordon must stop being downbeat,
The economy will soon be all go,
If the public keeps nagging for forecasts,
Just smile and say, "I dunno".

Can't he see all the signs of recovery?
GNP bouncing back in a flash?
In the meantime, to cover the deficit,
Geoffrey Robinson can lend us the cash.

Education, education, education.
That's what my Government's about,
But can somebody please check my spelling,
Before this first poem goes out?

If Frank Field calls, tell him I'm busy,
Or say that I'm just not at home,
That we've kept to new Labour's promise,
By giving him full Right To Roam.

I must contact Benson & Hedges,
To explain their royal warrant is dead,
While at the same time inquiring discreetly,
If they'd like to use MY Arms instead.

But getting on isn't a doddle,
The burdens of politics are harsh,
Witness poor Alistair Darling,
We made him shave off his moustache.

Now, Conservative critics cause trouble,
So we show them that new Labour's fun,
By seducing them over to our side,
With a pointless Commission to run

Their Lordships will soon be a memory,
Though you won't find me mourning the loss,
It's high time we championed democracy,
And accepted there's only one boss (me!).

Livingstone? For mayor? Are you crazy?
There's something not right in his head,
The minute he gets back to power,
He's certain to paint the town red.

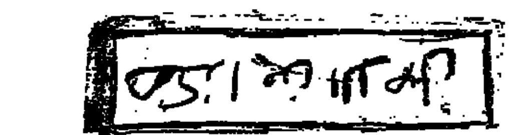
Paddy Ashdown is also departing,
To Brussels? The UN?
Somewhere!
Or maybe he's retiring to Yeovil,
But, frankly, does anyone care?

We'd better decide on the euro,
Me? I'm for going straight in,
Then at least if it proves to be rubbish,
We'll all be in the same bin.

Those focus groups — what are they saying?
We have to respond to their views,
New Labour must heed them more seriously
Than crime rates, or NHS queues.

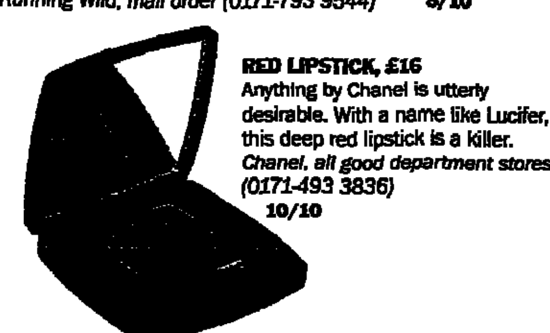
Now there MUST be a job for poor Mandy,
It's HIS work that got us so far,
Unless all the polls just say "Dump him!"
In which case, dear Peter, ta ta.

The same, I'm afraid, goes for Hoddle,
Who'll be reborn as something much worse,
As a monkey, or beetle, or fruit fly,
Or a scribbler of new Labour verse.

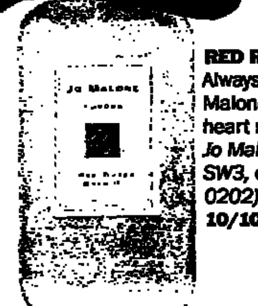


SIX OF THE BEST

Valentine gifts



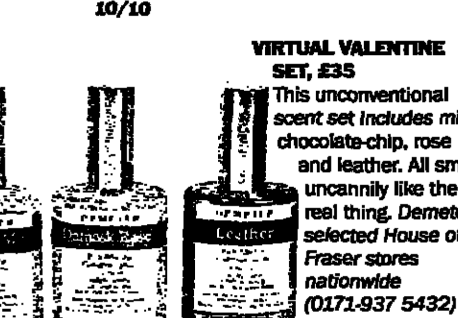
SEALED ROSE, £9.99 plus £2.50 p&p
Sealed in a vacuum pack, this rose can be ordered with one phone call, an easy way to please a lover.
Running Wild, mail order (0171-793 9544) **8/10**



RED LIPSTICK, £16
Anything by Chanel is utterly desirable. With a name like Lucifer, this deep red lipstick is a killer.
Chanel, all good department stores (0171-493 3836)
10/10

HEART CHOCOLATES, £13.95
Godiva makes some of the best Belgian chocolates, and these come with all the Valentine trimmings. If the chocolates don't make you sick, the packaging will.
Godiva, nationwide and mail order (0171-495 2845)
8/10

RED ROSES BATH OIL, £42
Always beautifully packaged, Jo Malone gifts will set any girl's heart racing.
Jo Malone, 154 Walton Street SW3, or mail order (0171-720 0202)
10/10

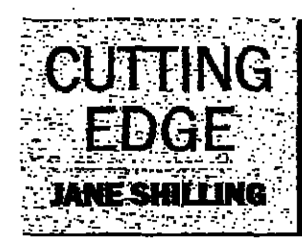


HEART JEWELLERY, from £7
These eye-welling quotes engraved on silver-plated jewellery are beautiful and affordable.
Marks & Spencer, selected stores nationwide (0171-935 4422)
10/10

VIRTUAL VALENTINE SET, £35
This unconventional scent set includes mint chocolate-chip, rose and leather. All smell uncannily like the real thing. *Demeter, selected House of Fraser stores nationwide (0171-937 5432)*
9/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

One perfect present



CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

I know what I am getting for Valentine's Day. Breakfast in bed, a card and a bunch of flowers. And I also happen to know that breakfast will consist of a chocolate mini-roll, an assortment of jelly babies and a mug of strong Ribena, that the card will feature Minnie the Minx, leering horridly beneath the legend "Wahey! It's Valentine's Day", and that the flowers will be a muddy bunch of *Iris reticulata*, picked from the patch by the front door.

How do I know this? Because I happened to be sweeping under my son's bed when I accidentally dislodged a box marked "Secret Plans" which, having the soul of Slipper of the Yard, I opened. By the time Alexander is old enough to have the sort of secret plans I'd rather not know about, I expect he will have found a better place to stash them. In the meantime, at least I know that I'm definitely getting something for Valentine's Day, and that I'll be pleased when it arrives. Which is more than you can say for a lot of poor girls.

It strikes me that the urgent way in which retailers encourage us to spend lots of money on gratuitous objects to give each other on Valentine's Day does a good deal to foster the misunderstanding that already exists between men and women on the subject of presents. The Christmas trees were hardly down before the pink hearts began to appear in the windows, accompanied by an atmosphere rather like the one I imagine must hang over a household where the marriage is shaky and the wedding anniversary looming.

Bothered-looking chaps, clearly aware that something grand is expected of them but certain that whatever gesture they make is bound to be wrong, escorting pinch-lipped girls, bracing themselves for the arrival of a sad bunch of scentless hothouse rosebuds, or a large bottle of the scent they wore on their first date (the fact that she now wears nothing but CK One does not impinge upon the eager young man in love. He is ever so pleased with himself for finding such a big bottle of Charlie! It was the last one, right at the very back of the topmost shelf.)

Burying the problem in money will not necessarily make it go away, as one poor fellow was in the process of discovering when I looked into Janet Reger's shop in Beauchamp Place. "Er ... what other colours does this come in?" he was saying hopelessly, staring like a mouse in the grip of a python at a frothing mound of frilly underthings in every shade of the spectrum. Janet Reger's lace-encrusted satin lingerie in an arresting shade of purplish-crimson is, apparently, very popular with gentlemen for Valentine's presents.

For myself, I think I might prefer some of the more delicate colour combinations. An exquisite slip in almond blossom pink satin with insets of moss green lace, also in ivory with midnight blue lace or lilac with black, is £295; a matching short robe is £350.

If you want to make a grand gesture, there is plenty of scope at Theo Fennell (0171-591 5000), whose gold key pendants with jewelled shanks start at £240. At Nigel Milne, a selection of pretty Victorian lockets starts at around £500, or there is his own heart-shaped pendant, a model of restraint in white gold and brilliants for £330. At Ilias Lalaounis (0171-235 9253) gold Cupid pendants begin at £470, or there is a wide silver ring with a gold heart, pavé-set with rubies for £235.

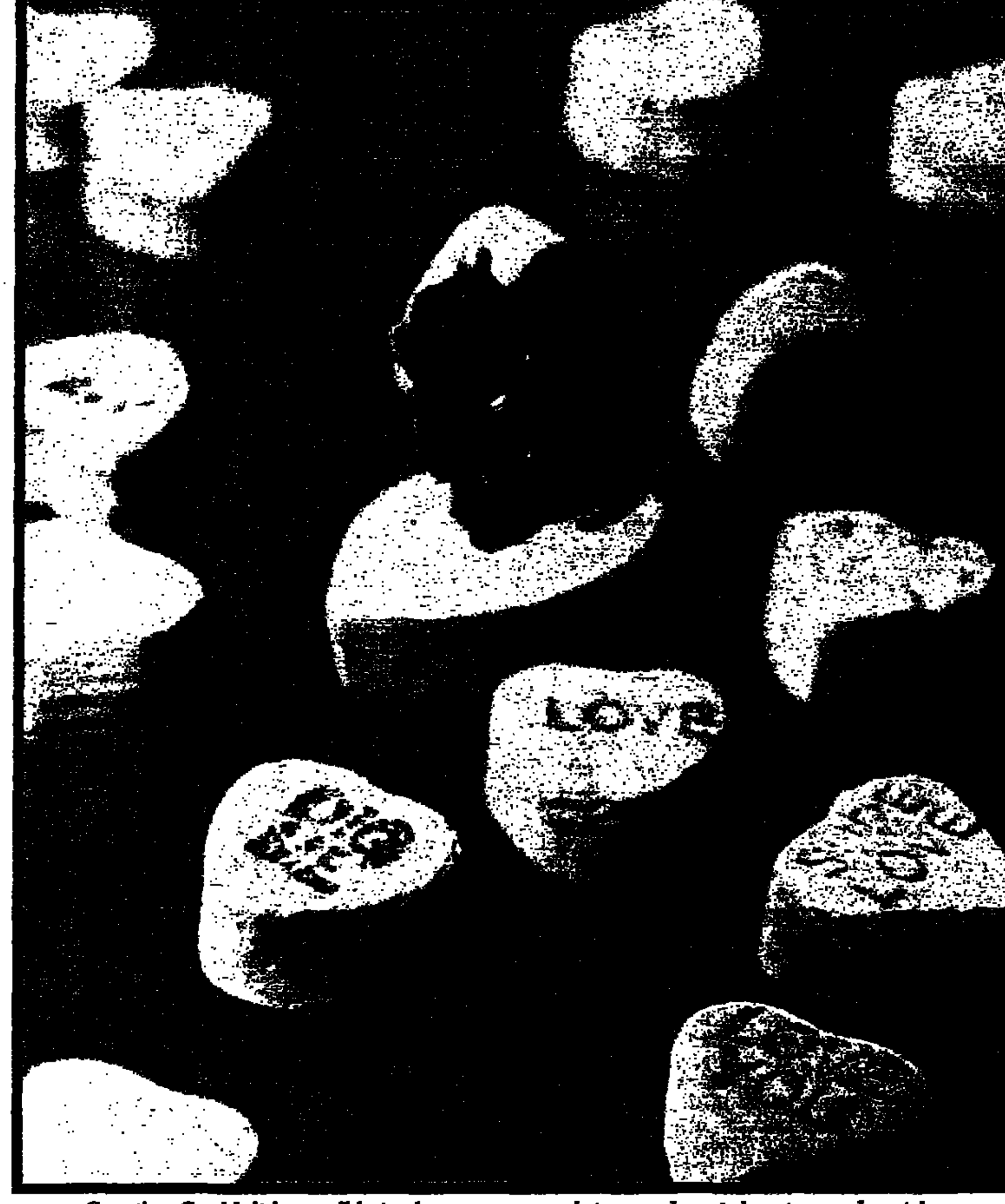
But, despite Dorothy Parker's plaintive line about dating men who send one perfect rose and don't understand a girl's need for one perfect limousine, it is possible to charm your way into your lover's heart on a shoestring. If she is a cook, try her with a set of Divertimenti's white porcelain *coeur à la crème* moulds, £4.95 each for small ones, £23.70 for large. The Conran Shop has garlands of heart-shaped dried peppers with fragrant bunches of dried herbs, £4.95; a blood-red cook's apron, £17.95; or five litres of Carluccio's extra virgin olive oil in a glass flask with a little gold tap, £79. I strongly advise against cuddly toys, but if you really must, Conran has a curly-coated bear in a blue fisherman's sweater with a heart on the front, £16.95.

If you love a bluestocking, Conran has albums bound in fuchsia nubuck, embossed with "L'amour, Love, La Joie de Vivre" and so on from £45. A stick of rose-pink sealing wax is £1.25. Wrap it up with Smythson's red leather correspondence envelope, with creamy cards embossed with a red heart, £95.

From Agnès B's red leather-cased, heart-shaped handbag mirror, £11, to Tiffany's silver charm bracelet with a heart clasp, £85; from heart-shaped silk lavender bags at The Cross, £8.15, to organza ones at Floris, from £7.95, there are many ways to show your sweetheart you love her without getting arrested by the style police.

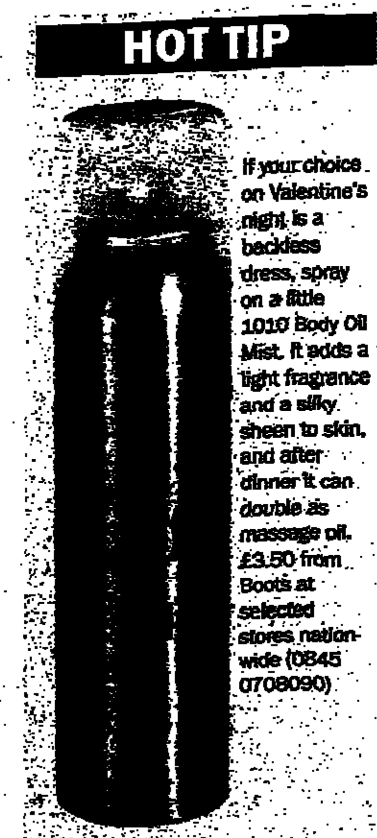
But take care. If you get it wrong, next time you go calling, you may find yourself looking at a smart new doormat from Jerry's Home Store, £16.95. In elegant capitals, impeccably framed in a handsome navy border, it says, in letters of coir: "GO AWAY."

STEPHEN WEBSTER



Courting Cupid: it is possible to charm your way into your lover's heart on a shoestring

HOT TIP



If your choice on Valentine's night is a backless dress, spray on a little 1010 Body Oil Mist. It adds a light fragrance and a silky sheen to skin, and after dinner it can double as massage oil. £3.50 from Boots at selected stores nationwide (0845 0708090)

Objects of desire

La Perla has the knack of indulging both his and her fantasies. This coral lace bra, £114, and G-string worn under a small lace cami-skirt, £179, should do the trick. From Sculpture, 23 Brook Street, W1 (0171-491 0503).

The Irish fashion designer John Rocha has created a sleek and understated range for Waterford Crystal. These champagne glasses are beautifully crafted with dimples that reflect the light. £50 a pair at John Rocha, 60F Sloane Avenue, SW1 (0800 393940).

Rob and Ewan both want a wife

ASHLEY COOMBES





... but there aren't enough women to go round. So the question is: will some nice girls go to a place like Uist? Anne Barrowclough finds out

Robert Currie is staring morosely into his empty beer glass, contemplating the idea of Valentine's Day. "It's going to be miserable," he says at last. "Really sad, actually."

Robert doesn't have a girlfriend. Never has had one, and can't see any prospect of getting one. Not that Robert is socially inept, or unattractive. In fact, he's young, good-looking and trendy in his Tommy Hilfiger sweatshirt and jeans and, what's more, is the island's DJ with his own disco, Dance Krazee — a job that not only gets him the latest album releases but should ensure him a constant supply of impressionable young girls.

That's just the problem. Because on North Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, there aren't many young, impressionable girls. In fact, there aren't many girls at all. So on Valentine's Day there will be no romance and roses and Robert already knows that the disco he will be running that evening is going to be a big disappointment.

"It will be full of men, almost no women. No one will dance; they'll all just stand around drinking till 12 o'clock, when we have to close up. Then they'll go home. I'll know everyone there, all the men, and the few girls who'll show up. It'll be like having a party with my family, that's how sad it is. It's like that every Saturday night and it won't be any different just because it's Valentine's Day."

North Uist has a serious woman problem. The number of females has been declining steadily for a decade and is still falling. Many of the island's young people go to the mainland for higher education and, while the men often return to the traditional island jobs of crofting and fishing, the young women prefer to stay on the mainland, where jobs are more plentiful and life is easier.

> 'We all drink. If only we had wives to keep us at home'

Unemployment is a problem throughout the Western Isles, running at about 8.3 per cent — almost 3 per cent higher than the average for Scotland. On North Uist the jobs shortage affects the 1,386 women even more than the 2,064 men.

But now the island is to receive a grant of £711,000 — half from the EU and half from a group of Scottish organisations — to help it to attract more women to its bleak shores and to encourage those still there to remain.

As a single, thirtysomething metropolitan woman I am, naturally, interested to see if North Uist has any charms to attract me or my single girlfriends. I am sorely disappointed. The landscape is stunning but the prospects are dismal. For jobs, we could choose either bartending, waitressing, or working in the Spar supermarket. For nightlife, we could choose from seven pubs, most of which are hotel bars — or there is always Robert's disco on Friday and Saturday nights. For essential retail therapy, there's just one shop, the Island Craft Shop. Admittedly, you can get some interesting knitwear, but Jigsaw it ain't.

As for urbane males, put it this way. A drinker in one of the pubs I visit in my search for (a) nightlife and (b) eligible men, asks me what the initials RL on my shirt cuff stand for. When I tell him Ralph Lauren, he asks: "Is that your boyfriend, then?"

A working knowledge of designer labels is not, of course, a necessity and the men of North Uist have other traits which their city counterparts would do well to emulate: they have a modesty and sweetness which, combined with their unaffected masculinity, is very appealing. But they feel trapped on an island where too often the easiest escape route is via the bottle.

Down at the harbour, bachelor boys Murdo McArthur, 26, and Ewan MacKinnon, 52, are standing unflinching in a snowstorm, and regard me with some curiosity, mixed with fear. Murdo at first shies away like a frightened lamb but he's finally enticed back for a chat.

This young fisherman, who still lives with his parents on their croft, and whose sisters have escaped to the mainland, admits despairingly: "I just can't get a girlfriend. I do my best. I go to the disco every Saturday because that's the only mating market on the island. But there's never many girls there. Just men. What woman would want to marry me, anyway? I'd be out fishing all day and there's nothing here for a woman to do. Except knit."

Ewan is more philosophical, although there's a poignancy about his acceptance of his now permanent bachelor state. "There used to be lots of women here when I was young but I let many a good one slip away. One day I woke up and I was on the wrong side of 50 and there was no one left. I can't even hope for a divorcée because once people find a wife they tend to hang on to her."

So just what do the men do for fun? "Uh, go to the pub," says Murdo, shifting his head to look out to sea. "That's what I do. Drink. We all do that. If we had wives, they'd keep us safe at home. Drunkenness is a big problem here."

The grant to be received by North Uist is to be spent on creating jobs that are attractive to women, as well as improving facilities on the island to upgrade the lifestyle of all its young people.

Catrina MacCuish, who speaks for the organisation responsible for distributing the money, speaks highly of island life. "There's lots to do," she says and adds enticingly: "There are lots of clubs." Oh goody, think I, wishing I'd brought my little black number, until she adds: "There's the sub-aqua club, the canoeing club and evening classes."

Catrina's plans to attract women include resuscitating traditional industries such as seaweed harvesting. But the bachelorsaren't optimistic that kelp collecting will do much to keep women here and, speaking personally, I'd say they have a good point.

As 19-year-old Fiona Henderson points out: "When people come back after a couple of years at university they realise there's nothing for them here. You can't blame them for leaving permanently. All my friends have gone — they all live in Glasgow now. There's only my friend Shona left and we go to Glasgow whenever we can to shop and go to parties. We'd go mad, otherwise."

Back in the bar of the Dark Island Hotel, DJ Robert Currie, whose day job is fish farming, is expounding on what should be done to improve island life. Like many of the young people still on North Uist, he cares deeply about his homeland. Although he is desperate to spread his wings elsewhere and his pals Shona and Fiona need constant R&R in Glasgow to retain their sanity, they at least are trying to do something to invigorate life here. But they feel frustrated by the older people, and by the strong religious traditions which rule island life.

"The churches have a lot of control," says Robert. "They own all the halls, so if I try to have a disco in any of them I have to close by 11pm. It hardly makes people want to come out . . . I usually get about 50."

Fiona Henderson, who works as a lifeguard at the local pool, agrees. "I despair, sometimes. There's so much that could be done here but nobody seems interested. There's no enthusiasm to get things moving. That's why so many of my girlfriends leave. Everything is just going to waste."

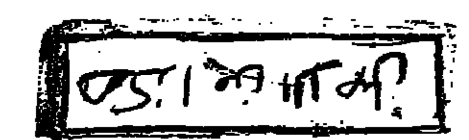
Fiona, dark and pretty, with her glossy hair cut in the latest style in Glasgow, wants to go to university on the mainland but, after growing up on the island, she isn't sure how to get on with strangers. Particularly men.

"The trouble is that I don't want to go out with any of the lads here because we know each other so well. You couldn't feel romantic about any of them," she confesses, giggling. "But I'd be nervous about going away and meeting a man somewhere else because I wouldn't know how to talk to him."

In the glaringly sober light of day, I decide to visit Colin Campbell, 64, who told *The Times* last week of his rugged life in his remote farmhouse, and who said: "Only a brave girl would come here." Deciding to be that brave girl, I flounder across a peat bog to his front door, only to find he's gone out. On the way back yet another sudden snowstorm catches me and, as I stand shivering, shin-deep in mud and snow, I decide "foolhardy" would be a better word to describe Colin's ideal girl.

Colin had said that, like most of the bachelors here, he feels a sense of loss at never having married and, later in the day when I speak to him by phone, he is wondering, with some anxiety, if women might start coming to the island, attracted by the large number of single men. Already he has been approached by a hopeful wife. "There is a woman who has started writing to me," he says, chuckling nervously. "She signs herself Anne Amorous."

There is hope yet for the bachelors of North Uist.



Try Enfield, Mr Hague, not Texas

Tories should follow Portillo's progress, says Tim Hames

There has been a lot of talk of late about "panic" in the ranks of the Conservative Party. The Tories have now spent more than six years with less than 30 per cent support in the opinion polls. They have few members, little money and no sense of mission. William Hague has decided to travel to Texas today to see if Governor George W. Bush can offer any answers.

The term "panic", though, is rather inappropriate. It does not begin to describe the situation. Phrases such as "sheer fear", and "total terror" would be much more accurate. The only difference between now and May 1997 is that the number of people living in fear of a Blair victory has diminished. There seems little reason to bet against another Labour landslide.

In all of this the Tory party remains its own worst enemy. It still insists on believing that the last Government was basically a respectable affair, led by a decent man, that was brought down by splits, sleaze and spin-doctors. There are intelligent members of the Shadow Cabinet who believe that John Major was "unlucky" and that after 18 years a heavy defeat was "inevitable". They have no conception of the loathing with which the country held and still holds them.

That public hostility is wholly appropriate. The last Tory administration was an utterly miserable experience. It was, when one considers the circumstances and despite stiff competition from Edward Heath's regime, easily the least attractive Government of this century. Mr Major's main achievement has been to rehabilitate the historical reputations of Arthur Balfour and Neville Chamberlain. Hell, I think this too and I still voted to re-elect the scoundrels. Those who did not demand even more furiously that the Tories openly recognise their failings.

To this national sentiment, Mr Hague and his circle reply that that they have said "sorry" several times already. However, a half-mumbled acknowledgement that policies on rate-capping may have misfired, inevitably buried deep in the inside pages of the broadsheets, does not strike most voters as much of a *mea culpa*. What the country wants is for the Conservative leadership to throw itself at the feet of single mothers, small businessmen, homeowners, sexual and ethnic minorities, even Eurosceptic scribblers, sob their soul out, beg for mercy — *and really mean it*. Bill Clinton not George W. Bush is the American whom Mr Hague should be asking for tips on performance, if not sincerity.

The scale of the Conservative problem on cultural attitudes and lifestyle issues today remains as immense as that which Labour suffered on economics throughout the 1980s. In fact, it is worse. For it is at least possible to imagine a capitalist crash on a scale that might drive sentiment back towards more state intervention and regulation. There is no way on earth, by contrast, that working women will volunteer to return to the kitchen, homosexuals accept being bundled back into the closet or blacks form a quiet queue to take their place on slave ships. The Conservatives are on the wrong side of history on all these issues.

Their attitudes do not only alienate the sections concerned (although they alone constitute one third of the electorate), they also put the Tories out of place with a vast new middle class, affluent and sceptical of state planning, but liberated and liberalised by access to higher education. There is no future for a party that does not know the voters.

At the outset of his leadership it appeared that Mr Hague understood this and was willing to act on it. After Michael Portillo paved the way with his magnificent break with the past at the 1997 party conference, Mr Hague took the chance to emphasise his own support for tolerance and diversity. For one brief shining moment it seemed as if the party of hanging and flogging might be transformed into one of shagging and snogging. At last, the Tory hierarchy seemed willing to sue for peace with the 1960s.

Alas Mr Hague spent last year hedging and retreating. Under attack from the rope, race and repression regiment, the Tory leader instead chose to sue for peace with the moral *mullahs* of the *Daily Mail* and the Taleban tendency at *The Daily Telegraph*. The familiar sirens of social authoritarianism are sadly once again emerging from Conservative Central Office under the camouflage of "neo-conservatism". Tolerance is merely to be tolerated in a limited form but real social pluralism is not practised.

> A vicar society is no better than a nanny state

As a result Mr Hague has forfeited his right fully to attack new Labour on the territory where it is most vulnerable — individual freedom. The Tory leader used the Hoddle saga last week to accuse Tony Blair of "poking his nose into people's lives". Barely 24 hours later he spoke of his intention to tinker with the tax and benefit system so as to rig it in favour of marriage rather than cohabitation. The Conservative alternative to the "nanny state" is then, it seems, to be the "vicar society".

There is but one Conservative of any rank who seems to understand the distance that the party must move to render itself relevant. The rehabilitation and renewal of Mr Portillo stands as a compelling reminder of the condition that the Conservative Party could be in now if Mr Hague had seen off his critics and adopted repentance and revival. It may already be too late in this Parliament to reverse course: if so the Conservatives are heading for another electoral catastrophe. If Mr Hague wants to avoid that fate, he could save time and effort by consulting the phoenix of Enfield Southgate rather than the Crown Prince of Texas.

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Mary Ann Sieghart is away.



America on the ropes

Clinton's trial was painful, but it has toned up the muscles of democracy

Simon Jenkins

"I Mark Twain, do solemnly swear that I've been to Washington and seen more rapscallions than there are mules in Mississippi. That Congress has so little to do it has impeached the President for slap and tickle, which as Huck says, is mostly tickle 'cause nobody heard the lady holler.

"How they impeached! They impeached mornin', noon and night, like Baptists on moonshine. They dragged in the girl so folks could see the smokin' gun. That was a mistake, 'cause after that folks began seeing things the President's way. There was many things he stretched, Huck says with a wink, but mostly the truth got out. So off he goes like a jumping frog. There ain't nothing the American people likes more, I reckon, than to feel morally superior to a President. But when we take the trap back to the station, the trapman gazes at his horse's tail and says, "There ain't no guide to the American joke."

Has the impeachment of President Clinton, scheduled to end today, been an American joke? Have we missed the plot? Green with envy at Britain's diet of high-class sex scandals, did Washington stage one of its own? A presidential honey trap was set. A lie was extracted, a perjury proved, a Congress enraged, a President contrite, a sin attoned . . . and a nation again at peace. It was the sort of stunt that Campbell, Mandelson & Co would have pulled, to get the office over a media lull between Thanksgiving and Superbowl. It was a bit tacky, but nobody ever lost votes for tack. So for God's sake everyone, stop looking so serious. Get the joke.

I like the idea, but having watched hours of the impeachment trial on television I am not sure. It has been a strangely compelling event, and not just for its salacious content. This was the American Constitution rolled out on parade with all the ponderous overkill of a ballistic missile in Red Square. Grim-faced legislators watched it rumble by. It may not terrify the enemy, but it certainly terrified them. Impeachment has been public and painful, but it has been the Constitution. Regiments of lawyers have marched by at vast expense. But this is the Constitution. Once invoked it has a life, and a cost, of its own.

The impeachment of Bill Clinton has been the stupidest trial of all time. The case did not merit the attention of a Dogberry. A village magistrate would have slung it out as vexatious. He would have told the prosecutor to shut up and entrusted the defendant to the mercies of his wife. "I never had sex with that woman," was a lie that could have been mouthed by half of Mr Clinton's precessors. It would not have been believed, but nor would it have been challenged. The privacies, even the indiscretions, of those in high places once enjoyed respect. So did lies about their indiscretions. As Huck Finn implied, mainly tell the truth and there is no harm in "some stretchers". In Mr Clinton's case, the devil was in the stretchers.

Most Europeans, from my observation, have been appalled at the antics in Washington this past three months. The impeachment of President Clinton has consumed the attention of the world's only superstate. It has done so at a time when the American economy is the one engine roaring behind the stock markets of the world, and when American troops are racing round its troublespots. The effect on Mr Clinton was plainly to induce a dubious adventurism in Iraq, Sudan and Yugoslavia. A cool head and a steady hand are prerequisites for a world champion. Yet the American President was enmeshed in a squalid scandal from which he seemed incapable of escape. Suppose the world faced a real crisis?

Americans not of the Clinton persuasion reply to this with vigour. To them, the world is doing just fine but Mr Clinton is a nasty piece of work. His Washington is corrupt. His personal life is ludicrous and leaves him open to blackmail. His White House is chaotic, which is why nobody works there for long. Yes he is popular, but so is any President with a booming economy and peace abroad. He has a case to answer. His campaigns have left trails of suspect dealings. He lied to his colleagues and to a Grand Jury. He cannot even face the press. Mr Clinton may defy accountability but he cannot be above the law.

These critics point out that the British have more subtle but no less ruthless ways of holding their chief executive to account. They have the disciplines of the club. If a man gets into Mr Clinton's sort of mess and it goes public, he must either tell a convincing lie or his colleagues visit him and tell him to go. If he is all right by the club he is all right, if not he resigns. The system is effective. When Margaret Thatcher had to go, her own Cabinet lined up to drive in the knife, like the cast of *Murder on the Orient Express*. In Britain, "irresistible pressure" would soon have forced Mr Clinton's resignation over Monica Lewinsky.

In Britain, separation of powers is within the club. America's separation is formal and external. Its democracy is that of the people, constrained by the law. To his congressional critics, the cause of Mr Clinton's discomfiture may have been trivial, but the outcome was not. He did something every American child is told never to do. He lied under oath to a Grand Jury. He attempted to influence witnesses before a trial. If these crimes are intolerable in a citizen, how much more so in Citizen Number One? There can be no defence of proportionality.

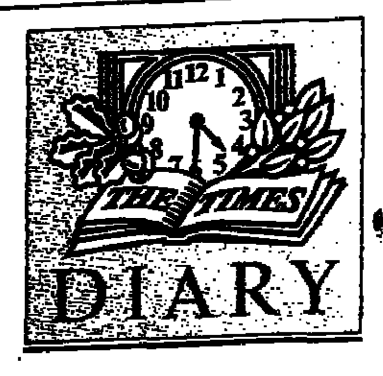
Mr Clinton was duly impeached but found not guilty. He appealed over the head of the Constitution to the people and the people exercised their sovereignty and gave the thumbs-up. They held a de facto plebiscite — a running opinion poll — and that was the end of the matter. The sin was too trivial to justify dismissal. Americans do not expect their leaders to be gods, even if they pretend to be such. A politician may hold himself up as a role model, the embodiment of personal and family virtue. The public has no time for such pomposity. Do what you are paid to do, it cries. Screw up as a saint and we will call you a schmuck. Screw up on the job, and you go.

In his essay on *The Disuniting of America*, the historian Arthur Schlesinger, points to the United States' capacity to pull itself back from the brink. It constantly manages to salvage unity from a chaos of "self-criticism, protest, disrespect and irreverence". Its politics seems forever testing itself to destruction, over McCarthyism, racialism, the presidency, censorship, even nuclear war. It drives the world to the edge of the cliff. Then it cries, "It's all right everyone, relax." And each time, American democracy emerges a little stronger.

Perhaps that is the same game of trial and error we have just witnessed. What in Britain would be a political row, in America is elevated by the separation of powers into a constitutional one. "Scarcely any political question arises in the United States," wrote de Tocqueville, "that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question." To him the language of the law became "the vulgar tongue". Impeachment is a classic instance. It is political. It was wheeled out against Richard Nixon, but not against Ronald Reagan over Irangate, far more serious infringement of presidential power than covering up a Monica Lewinsky kiss. What might have been no more than a congressional inquiry into Mr Clinton's business affairs was recklessly handed to a special prosecutor with an obsession for sexual prurience. But it was authorised by the Attorney-General. It was regular. It was the Constitution.

That is one way in which Americans hold their President to account. The result may be messy. It may have led to a surfeit of executive accountability in Washington over the past three months. But that is America's business. Britons cannot scoff. They are suffering an accountability famine. Their legislature can hardly muster more than a pip or a squeak at present. They can hardly cast stones over the Atlantic.

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Toff turns

THE toff who took on the Tory leader has threatened to quit Conrad Black's board, so sick is he of *The Daily Telegraph's* attacks.

Viscount Cranborne — who resigned as leader of the Tory peers after William Hague condemned his deal with Tony Blair — has written to the proprietor saying that as *The Daily Telegraph* finds him an embarrassment, he might as well quit. "The paper reminds me of Samgrass in *Brideshead Revisited*," Cranborne tells me, referring to the oleaginous Oxford don in Evelyn Waugh's classic.

"It has been licking the arse of the aristocracy for so long that it revels in being able to kick that arse." A recent *Telegaph* portrait of Lord C advised him to "get lost". Which is rather unfair; he is a good bloke.

● *SCANDAL at Buckingham Palace? Sir Robert Fellowes disclosed at a private farewell party that he was "the only private secretary to have been held in the Queen's arms". Anxious looks. Then he added that Papa had been agent at Sandringham and Her Majesty had cradled him as a nipper.*

Playing safe

PIERCE BROSNAN and Sophie Marceau (below) have opted out of going skiing because of avalanches. They were to film the James Bond flick, *The World Is Not Enough*, in




Chamonix but have been told to hold tight in their ejector seats. "Brosnan," I hear "doesn't want to be shaken and stirred."

● *AFTER my exclusive snap of the PM's big brother, I hear promising signs that William Blair will become the new Terry Major-Ball. He is being wooed by James Hughes-Onslow, a scribe friend of the PM, who turned Terry from gnome-painter into literary giant. So far, William is running shy.*

Yellow peril

TRAFFIC wardens are to be given body armour, in such high esteem are they held. A pilot study in Haringey, a smokey patch of London, will see wardens protected from knives and bullets — after an increase in "contested" tickets. They will be trained by police in self-defence, leading to the prospect of super-wardens "They are public servants," explains Stephen James, a senior nicker. "They have a right to protection." Discuss.



● *CAMBRIDGE is to bestow an honour on Miriam Rothschild, 31 years after Oxford made her an Hon DSc. "It's a marvel they thought of me," says the modest 90-year-old bug aficionado, who discovered why fleas jump.*

The 39 steps

RAYMOND GUBBAY's enormous set for his forthcoming *Tosca* at the Royal Albert Hall is exhausting his divas. Normally, Tosca skips up a few steps before issuing her final cry and throwing herself over a wall. But Susan Bullock or Suzanne Murphy, who will play the part on alternate nights, first have to climb 39 steps. They will then have to drop four storeys, for which the singers will wear a special cloak designed to act as a parachute. "It's a formidable feat," says Raymond. "We have every confidence, but we have stand-by singers just in case."

● *VOICE trials for seven places in the choir at Westminster Abbey recently attracted just four boys, one of whom was up to the job. In the past, up to 30 boys would have attended — but the recent organ wars have scared parents away.*

JASPER GERARD

'From copper bracelets to sticking pins in one's belly, no alternative medicine seems too silly not to attract some true believers'

Philip Howard

"Vanessa show faked!" Shock! Horror! splashed over yesterday's red-top front pages. Vanessa Feltz's chat show is eructed by the BBC at the scurrying time of day that is not televiewable by me.

But I had assumed that all who chose to appear on such Oprah Winfrey public breast-beatings were fakes as well as exhibitionists. And that their audiences must have been kicked in their heads by donkeys when young to believe such tosh. So my zapper is unwrung by the revelations that the "victim" of a violent husband was really a poor player who had never been married. And that two "sisters" said to be locked in a family feud were actually strippagram girls who had first met in the studio. People will believe anything if you breathe it to them with emotion out of the television screen.

But it does come as a bit of a shock when after a century of universal education our national credulity seems to grow rather than diminish. Some of Robert Maxwell's lieutenants claimed (almost plausibly) to be the cleverest men in England. So how came they were so gullible about their boss, who was widely (though cautiously) whispered to be an arrant knave and pirate? Glenn Hoddle should have been sacked for his treacherously irresponsible memoirs. But his inchoate views on reincarnation would have made Plato wince and even the imperturbable Buddha raise an eyebrow, as though painted by Ingres, who was strong on eyebrows.

The hugely self-serving advertising industry is nine-tenths con-trick based on fake and gullibility. Who other than advertising whiz-kids could believe that plastering their labels over sportsmen, or colouring the heroic Irish rugby pack red, white and blue from the paint advertising an idiotic bank would endear us to their products or services? Presumably advertising must work a bit. But not as much as they pretend. Some gullible fools may drink a brand of lager because it is advertised on the shirt of an England cricketer (or footballer), in the hope that sympathetic magic will make them play as well as their heroes. But there must be just as many of us who resolve never to touch the muck or use the bank, and not just for fear that we might start playing as feebly as England footballers or cricketers.

There is no alternative medicine, from copper bracelets and sticking pins into oneself, from having pendulums dangled over one's belly to smells and bells, too silly not to attract some true believers. Will sitting under a green pyramid solve one's existential problems? There will be takers, and not just from the *Hello!* magazine ninnies. The heir to the throne is said to talk to his vegetables — but then it's hardly surprising since he gets plenty of practice at state occasions. Our advanced civilisation is as full of huxters, astrologers, charlatans and fakes, with their gullible gulls, as the decadent Rome that excited Juvenal's indignation.

Language is a great creator of myths for the gullible. Such as: English spelling is katasstroffic; words such as "infer" have single correct and original meanings; French is a logical language, Italian is beautiful, Dutch is ugly. English is difficult (or easy).

Crocodiles do not weep. Bulls, like all other cattle, are colour-blind. They cannot tell red from green or blue. The Turin Shroud was repeatedly exposed as a marketing fake as soon as it was first exhibited for money at Lirey in France in 1357. But carbon-dating and other scientific demonstrations of the fraud fall off the belief systems of true believers like water off a cat's back.

Marie Antoinette never said "Let them eat cake (brioche, pastry)". It was a proverb long before she was born. And there is no jot of evidence that she ever said it. Nero never fiddled while Rome burned. To start with, the violin, for which "fiddle" is a colloquialism, was not invented until more than 15 centuries after the fire of Rome in AD64, at which Nero is supposed to have fiddled. And for another, all witnesses record that Nero did everything possible to alleviate the calamity. His imperial gardens were thrown open to the distressed multitude. Tents were erected for them. Free corn and other provisions were distributed. "But all the prudence and humanity affected by Nero were insufficient to preserve him from the popular suspicions."

The Romans had a proverb for this phenomenon. *Mundus vult decipi* — The world wants to be deceived. We still do. The only difference between now and Juvenal's age of credulity is that our quacks today wear Armani suits and ties by Hermès, and carry pagers and personal superstition organisers.



TEST TUBE

The Government should condemn the RMT strike action

Valentine's Day is a date for romance. Yet on London Underground, Sunday will be a day of trouble and strife as members of the *Rail, Maritime* and Transport union begin a 48-hour strike. The disruption will cause chaos and misery for hundreds of thousands of commuters and will cost London's companies as much as £70 million. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister whose responsibilities include transport, and Glenda Jackson, the Minister for Transport in London, have so far remained silent about the walkout. Before the election, the Prime Minister assured voters that unions would be treated with fairness not favours. "There will be time when the interests of a Labour Government and the unions diverge," he said. Now is such a time. The Prime Minister and his ministers should condemn the strike.

The strikers' gripe is with the Government's plans to resuscitate the Under*ground. One of the last* nationalised industries, this creaking transport system is an expensive monopoly that has been starved of adequate investment and is a refuge for antique working practices. The proposed "public-private" partnership, under which the Tube's infrastructure would be leased to private companies, would raise £7 billion of investment to improve and renew the tunnels, track and signals.

This innovative plan has appalled the RMT's members, as it threatens to expose their working practices to the cold blast of cost-cutting efficiencies. They have drawn up a wish-list of demands which reads like golden oldies from the Winter of Discontent. One, for example, is that those members currently working 35 hours a week should work only 32 hours a week. Above all, they want an assurance that there will be no compulsory redundancies and that no worker will be forced to work for any other company without the individual's written consent. Such a guarantee would bind the hands of the private companies, thereby undermining the purpose of the whole project.

Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the RMT, insists that Monday morning's commuters will "see the validity" of the strikers' argument. A handful may agree with the RMT's cause, but few will agree with the union's tactics. Prolonged industrial action might deter private companies from bidding for the leases. If that happened, the only people to rejoice would be the RMT, whose members are pampered by pay and conditions which few who travel on the Underground enjoy. Tube drivers are paid £25,000 a year for working a 35-hour week. The average salary of people travelling on the Underground is £18,000. Regular commuters will see much of their income swallowed up by paying the highest fares for any underground service in Europe. In return, when Mr Knapp's members are not on strike, travellers are subjected to regular delays, cancellations and overcrowded carriages.

Many commuters have become so used to this approach to industry that it no longer surprises them. Yet they might well raise an eyebrow if the Government refuses to condemn the strike. This is all the more remarkable as the RMT is becoming saturated with supporters of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, the ancient contingent of old Labour. The suspicion is that the RMT has bought Labour's silence, giving financial support to 13 MPs' constituencies — including John Prescott's own seat.

Before it was swept into office, new Labour paraded itself as the "consumers' champion". Now it seems that the Third Way is not to condemn or support a strike, but to say nothing. If new Labour really wants to govern as new Labour, silence is not enough. The RMT's strike is utterly wrong, and ministers should say so.

FAILED IN WALES

Blair resorts to dubious tactics to nominate his man

It may be the land of my fathers but it is the backing of the brothers on which Tony Blair is relying to deliver victory to Alun Michael, the Prime Minister's preferred choice for First Secretary of the Welsh assembly. A heated battle to determine *whether Mr Michael or Rhodri Morgan,* the MP for Cardiff West, takes that accolade, once destined for Ron Davies, will culminate in a knife-edge vote next Saturday. Mr Michael, although a worthy candidate, is only in with a chance because of a set of deals many of which involve trade union barons. It would seem that the process of Labour Party modernisation never quite made it to Monmouthshire.

This is a contest conducted in a fashion that must make traditional Labour fixers melt with nostalgia. The simple notion of "one member, one vote" deployed elsewhere in the Labour Party with enthusiasm is about as relevant in Wales as it is in North Korea. Nor is this state of affairs any sort of snub to the Labour leadership. It has been deliberately devised to keep Mr Morgan, who would probably win on a standard democratic ballot, out of office. There is instead a complicated electoral college consisting of MPs, MEPs, assembly candidates in one section, trade unions in another, with only one third of the college reserved for ordinary party supporters.

Mr Michael is, not unsurprisingly as the establishment contender, expected to romp home among the party officials and take the lion's share of support from those unions who have chosen not to consult their members. Mr Morgan will do well anywhere that the franchise is wider. The depth of opposition to the Cardiff MP from the leadership is difficult to fathom. He is not, by Welsh standards, especially old Labour. He is, however, considered distinctly independent and, worse still, unpredictable. As First Secretary he would be likely to press for more powers in a manner *that might be inconvenient to Whitehall.* There are a few souls who consider this the essence of devolution. They, it seems, must be shown to be entirely mistaken.

To add farce to irony, even if Mr Michael emerges victorious there is uncertainty about whether he will be the Labour leader in the new assembly. The Welsh Secretary is not fighting a constituency but, rather, is top of the party list for Mid and West Wales in the proportional representation branch of the election. If Labour wins all the real contests in his region then the party will not qualify for any additional members from the PR element of the equation. Mr Michael may thus become the first leader in British history whose personal interest is best served by his party not winning in a landslide. The troops could be forgiven for lacking inspiration.

If Mr Blair's plans in Wales do come unstuck then it will be poetic justice. He has attempted to impose his man by utterly underhand methods. In London, the Prime Minister has had the honesty openly to seek to stop Ken Livingstone on the solid grounds of his past record and likely future behaviour. A similar approach in the Principality would have at least had the virtue of consistency. If Mr Michael does defeat Mr Morgan on the basis of trade union favours, then many will be left wondering what the Prime Minister will have to do to return the compliment later.

A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Spain should keep its Foreign Minister in check

Spain has stopped behaving like a responsible member of the European Union. It cannot be compatible with EU membership to ban those holding driving licences from a neighbouring EU member and threaten to stop all civilian overflights. EU freedoms of movement and labour should not allow for long waits at frontiers while guards go through a clear charade of checking documents. Spain's sudden bullying of Gibraltar is a disgrace: a breach of EU law, a breach of international civility and a breach of the mature common sense expected from any country that has bound its destiny to that of its neighbours.

Abel Matutes, the prickly Foreign Minister, has echoed the excesses of Francoist nationalism in announcing measures to put pressure on Gibraltar. A blockade is no way to win the confidence of Gibraltarians that they will find a safe political home inside Spain. With a single, arrogant speech — accompanied by action on the ground — he has destroyed the hopes, nurtured in regular talks with Britain and in speeches offering sweet reasonableness, that the dispute between London and Madrid can be resolved diplomatically.

The immediate cause of this outburst is the agreement concluded by Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, with local Spanish fishermen. This resolved the *frequent* rows over their intrusion into waters around Gibraltar and was happily accepted by all sides. As such, it was also endorsed by Britain as a sensible conclusion to incidents that had caused legitimate anger on both sides of the border.

But to Señor Matutes it was an outrage. Bypassing Madrid, it appeared to endorse Gibraltarian sovereignty over the waters around the Rock. This, he believed, had been specifically ruled out in a verbal understanding with Robin Cook last October. He felt betrayed. And above all, he felt foolish. Spanish politicians do not like losing face in any circumstance.

Already there are indications that his bluster has embarrassed his Government. Britain has launched a formal protest in the EU. It has moved swiftly to counter his *claims that Gibraltar had failed to* implement EU law — a genuine grievance four years ago — and claims that his tally is mostly fantasy. Much mockery has been made of the failure of both Señor Matutes and Mr Cook to find a reliable mobile phone on which to talk to each other. If pride still prevents either from picking up a normal landline, then perhaps Mr Blair should call José María Aznar to discuss things in a more statesmanlike manner.

To its credit, Spain's Socialist Party recently pronounced the politics of confrontation a failure: Gibraltar, it said, would be convinced only by patience, good neighbourliness and an agreement to set aside sovereignty disputes for a while. That would indeed have a chance of winning Gibraltar's trust. *The threats of Señor* Matutes can only revive old suspicions on the Rock and in London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Caution urged on joining the euro

From the Head of the Policy Unit, Institute of Directors

Sir, I read with bemusement Peter Riddell's "Short-changed by our approach to the euro" (February 5), in which he says that "the only test that matters is convergence of interest rates" for entry into the euro.

To start with, it is quite unclear that we will get interest-rate convergence between the UK and euroland without triggering UK inflation over the next couple of years or so. As the Governor of the Bank of England has suggested, it would be most unwise to cut our interest rates to euroland's rates at present for fear of overheating the labour markets. And, looking forward over the next year or two, many commentators are expecting British rates to stay around 1.5 to 2 per cent higher than in euroland, assuming respective inflation targets. Given the acute sensitivity of the British economy to changes in short-term interest rates a cut of, say 2 per cent, "at a stroke" would probably trigger inflation.

But even if we achieved the Holy Grail of the same interest rates without inflation, I would challenge the implication that this is a sufficient criterion for living happily ever after with euroland's interest rates. A similar interest rate does not, for example, mean the all-important cyclical convergence. Cyclical convergence is all about (a) having similar measures of capacity utilisation (for example, unemployment rates) and (b) moving in tandem through the cycle.

There is little evidence that either of these criteria will be satisfied over the next two years. And even if we did, by some miracle, slip into cyclical "sync" with euroland it is unlikely to be sustainable because of structural differences, including our sensitivity to changes in short-term interest rates and our greater dependence on dollar trade.

Interest rate convergence is quite inadequate. If we wish to maintain economic stability (and I believe the Bank is doing a very good job) we must either keep our monetary sovereignty or ensure we have true cyclical and structural convergence before throwing in our lot with the ECB.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH LEA,
Head of the Policy Unit,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1 5ED.
February 6.

Church in the suburbs

From the Vicar of Ewell

Sir, The account of the report of the suburbs by the Civic Trust and Ove Arup (February 5) may come as a surprise to some, but not to those of us who live and work in suburbia. Over the years the myth of some almost idyllic metroland, with an over-use of the word "leafy", has done much to conceal the truth. I am glad that this report has seen the light of day, for I was beginning to wonder whether any serious attempt would ever be made to uncover the real problems of suburban life, let alone attempt to talk about dealing with them.

Some years ago the Church of England produced two substantial reports, *Faith in the City* (1985) and *Faith in the Countryside* (1990). In 1996 I asked a formal question in the General Synod as to whether a comparable and equally weighty survey might be embarked upon, entitled *Faith in the Suburbs*, in order to complete the picture. I was somewhat taken aback by the gust of laughter at the suggestion. My private member's motion, tabled to assess the measure of support, failed to reach the required figure of 100, and therefore lapsed.

The Church of England may not be alone in thinking that all is well in its suburban heartlands. However, I cherish the hope that the Civic Trust report will galvanise it into a serious assessment of its role in the suburbs, instead of regarding suburban parishes as little more than contented milch cows, best left alone so long as they can be relied upon to pay a hefty share of the diocesan quota.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HANFORD,
Ewell Vicarage, Church Street,
Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2AQ.
February 5.

Poetry cast loose on open market

From Professor Jon Stallworthy, FBA

Sir, Henry Reece, Chief Executive of the Oxford University Press (letter, January 9; see also letter, January 11), describes Alan Howarth's charge of "barbarianism" against the OUP as "bizarre". However, he fails to address the central argument of the minister's speech, in which he said:

> The Press is rightly proud to publish the new *Oxford English Dictionary*. Sir Keith Thomas, a great scholar whom I hold in warm regard, claims indeed that to be guardian of the *OED* is to be the custodian of the English language. But poets, certainly no less than lexicographers, are shapers of the English language. The custodian is abandoning its task if it abandons our poets. If it is appropriate for the OUP to subsidise the Dictionary, is it not equally appropriate to subsidise the poetry list (and at a small fraction of the cost)?
>
> So there is a clear public interest in this matter. That is a view taken not only by me, but also by 63 of our acknowledged legislators of all parties who have signed a motion in the House of Commons deploring this decision of the OUP.

Another aspect of the "public interest" argument is that, when 35 OUP poets are laid off, they go to the head of the queue at the doors of more enlightened publishers, thereby preventing or at least delaying the publication of a comparable number of other poets. The whole structure and economy of the nation's poetry publishing has been distorted by the OUP's revised "strategic priorities". These might be justified had the Press never published new poetry, but contraception is not the same as murder of a healthy 39-year-old.

Finally, when Mr Reece says "We *have never published* any other kind of contemporary adult creative writing", he seems not to know his own list, which today boasts the plays of Christopher Fry, the brothers Capek, the Nobel Prize-winning Wole Soyinka, and has under contract a reissue of the plays of Athol Fugard. Similarly, the OUP's series of Twentieth-century Classics boasted many contemporary novels by, among others, John Bayley and D. J. Enright.

Yours faithfully,
JON STALLWORTHY
(Deputy Academic Publisher,
OUP, 1975-77),
Wolfson College, Oxford OX2 6UD.
February 11.

From the Editor of Poetry Life

Sir, Whatever the arguments about the OUP's decision to abandon its support for creative writing, the poets themselves must be delighted.

Presumably, as they are released from any further contractual obligations to OUP they will all be free to offer themselves and their work to other publishers. Since, as we understand, their work is so important to English literature and the modern poetry movement, they will command a high price in the marketplace and surely even now an intense bidding war must be taking place between rival publishers for the most talented.

Of course, if this proves not to be the case, then they will have found their true value in the market.

Yours etc,
ADRIAN BISHOP,
Editor, *Poetry Life*,
1 Blue Ball Corner, Water Lane,
Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0ER.
adrian.abishop@virgin.net
February 9.

Mixed memories of Maxwell

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Lord Donoughue (article, "It wasn't just me: he duped Tories too", February 6) discusses the contacts between Robert Maxwell and former Tory Chancellor Norman (now Lord) Lamont. He states: "Maxwell's diary showed that he was due to see him [Lamont] again at No 11 on the evening of the day that Lamont resigned as Chancellor."

It is worth looking at the chronology behind this statement. Maxwell disappeared on Tuesday, November 5, 1991; at that time a general election was imminent, which the Tories went on to win in April 1992, thereby confounding pundits who generally believed that they would lose. Lamont resigned as Chancellor on Thursday, May 28, 1993.

It seems highly improbable that Maxwell could have made an appointment as far back as 1991, to see Lamont at No 11 on a particular day in 1993 — not least because it was far from certain in 1991 that Lamont would still be Chancellor by 1993.

I recognise that Maxwell has cast a long shadow since his disappearance. On the face of it, Lord Donoughue's statement really does appear to represent a shadow too far.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Head of Economics),
Chantrey Vellacott DFK,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1B 5LF.
February 8.

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, Lord Donoughue, in seeking to *excuse his business relationship with* the pensions fraudster Robert Maxwell, claims that I was a "ready guest at Maxwell's dining table". I never dined at Maxwell's dining table.

On one occasion, during my time as chairman of the Conservative Party, Maxwell was present at the Editor's dining table of *The Daily Mirror*, when I was a guest of the Editor. That hardly makes me a "ready guest at Maxwell's dining table", let alone a well-paid hanger-on of the notorious Labour Party supporter and financier, Mr Maxwell.

Yours faithfully,
TEBBIT,
House of Lords.
February 8.

Blair and Hitler

From Mr David Ganderton

Sir, I am surprised that Lord Beloff did not pursue his analogies between the rise to power of Hitler and Tony Blair (article, February 9; letters, February 11) to include the likely act of arson on Parliament by some eccentric individual (a member of the imperilled Lords, perhaps?), prior to the passing of an Enabling Act dissolving all other political parties.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GANDERTON,
106 Brooklands Road,
Sale, Cheshire M33 3SL.
February 11.

From Mr Ken Birks

Sir, Any of your readers, unable to sleep at night after reading Max Beloff's article, may be reassured. Tony Blair hasn't made the trains run on time yet.

Yours faithfully,
KEN BIRKS,
69 Mile End Lane,
Stockport SK2 6BP.

'Bean counter' culture

From Mr Dave Lowry

Sir, It was interesting to read of the broad engineering qualifications and backgrounds of the executives of BMW, particularly of the new chief executive, Joachim Milberg (article, Business News, February 8). Perhaps, if the typical UK plc executive over the past two decades had mirrored more closely his career in production technology and been close enough to the "cutting edge" to receive a professorship, British companies might now be worrying about how to improve performances in German factories rather than the other way round.

Yet again our short-sighted and short-term "bean counter" culture at the top has failed us, and continues to do so. Many of our top executives have much to answer for.

Yours faithfully,
DAVE LOWRY
(Management consultant),
WaterFall Development Services,
7 Afan Close, Kettering,
Northamptonshire NN16 9FP.
dalow@cwcom.net
February 8.

Death of Hussein

From Mr Ben Strickland

Sir, King Hussein's ability to seek peace and reconciliation was always a strong facet of his character. In the *summer of 1961 I was present when at* his request, my late father, Major-General Michael ("Strick") Strickland, invited the King and Glubb Pasha to his house at Frensham, Surrey.

This was the first time they had met since Glubb's dismissal in 1955 and was a most cordial and touching reunion. The two spoke quietly together for a long time in Arabic. The King appreciated all that Glubb had done for Jordan and regretted his abrupt dismissal. Together with his wife Muna, he joined in all the fun that day, including rough games of croquet and consequences.

My father, who died in 1982, had been the last British commanding officer of a Beduin regiment. He was the senior British officer in Jordan after Glubb's dismissal and at the time of Suez, and the very last British officer in the Arab Legion. In 1958 King Hussein asked Macmillan if my father, who was then serving on the Defence Staff in London, could return to Jordan. He did so for two critical years, as Chief Military Adviser.

When my father finally left Jordan the King wrote: "Jordan will always be a second home to you." Indeed, our family has very warm memories of him and Jordan and we are extremely sad at his passing.

Yours sincerely,
BEN STRICKLAND,
23 Juer Street, SW11 4RE.
February 10.

From Group Captain Peter D. Bird

Sir, King Hussein need not have lost the West Bank or East Jerusalem in 1967. I know that he was told by the Israelis at the time that if "he kept out of the conflict he wouldn't get hurt".

Yours sincerely,
PETER D. BIRD
(British Defence Attaché,
Tel Aviv, 1967-1971),
Wenlock House, Dinghurst Road,
Churchill BS25 5PN.

From Ms Keren Bobker

Sir, I was most taken aback at the superior and patronising tone of Peter Brookes's cartoon today, captioned "The next summit". At the age of 37 King Abdullah II can hardly be considered a baby.

While the new King cannot yet have the same depth of knowledge and diplomatic skills as his late father, such a negative portrayal does nothing to help an already fragile situation.

Yours faithfully,
KEREN BOBKER,
35 Victoria Avenue,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5DL.
kbobker@auerhope.co.uk
February 9.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They *may be sent to a fax number* — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Morse reign over but not quite out

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Sadly, many leading practitioners of Morse code (report and leading article, February 1) will soon retire or convert to satellite telephony. Is it too much to hope that, before they do, someone will make tape recordings of their work?

Your leading article observed that "Experts can ... recognise another operator's 'signature touch'" (which greatly assisted the Enigma decoders at Bletchley Park during the war), but it is more than that.

My own Morse (when in the RAF), despite my best efforts, always sounded to me like the spiky, ill-formed script of a schoolboy's essay, complete with occasional crossings-out. Machine code (produced by a perforated tape running at a precise speed) was perfect, but deadly dull and boring to *receive, like typing from a civil ser*vant. By comparison, Morse from an expert operator was a delight, like copperplate or a fine italic from the quill of an artist. To compare it with machine code would be like comparing Horowitz with a pianola.

If recordings have not been made, future generations may be able to listen only to the machine code. Fine Morse, like all artistry, is worthy of preservation and study.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MacNICOL,
9 Church Lane, Greetham,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 7NF.
nrmacnicol@aol.com
February 2.

From Dr Neil Witt

Sir, The introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) on February 1, 1999, has not meant the end of Morse for distress, as this was discontinued on December 31, 1997.

GMDSS does more than replace Morse code, it offers a shore-based, worldwide infrastructure aimed at supporting marine communication, an important aspect missing in the "good old days".

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WITT
(Senior Lecturer in
Navigation Systems),
Institute of Marine Studies,
University of Plymouth,
Devon PL4 8AA.
nwitt@plymouth.ac.uk
February 1.

From Mr Michael Vaisey

Sir, "Morse code ceases to be the official medium for worldwide navigational communication", according to your leader.

Well no. Morse code is used to identify aeronautical navigation beacons throughout the world and will continue to do so for a long time yet.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL VAISEY,
Fullers Hill, Little Gransden,
Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 3BP.
February 2.

From Commander T. V. G. Binney, RN (retd)

Sir, Much enjoyed your leader though not the headline "Over and out". Real R/T users know it is one or the other, never both. Your version is reserved for Hollywood war heroes and Solent gin-palace seadogs alongside the Hamble.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BINNEY,
Close Cottage, Rogate,
Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 5HN.
February 3.

Knot rated

From Sir Alan Muir Wood FRS, FEng

Sir, Professor Ian Fells, a distinguished engineer, expresses chagrin (letter, February 5) that his distinctive bow-tie leads to his identification as an architect.

In my experience, only functionalist architects wear bow-ties; if of the clip-on variety they may yet fall into the soup. Minimalist architects (and musicians) may be identified by their grandad shirts, modernists by their colourful science-fiction apparel, the designer version of the Mao suit. So each of these types neatly outflanks the problem which Professor Fells addresses.

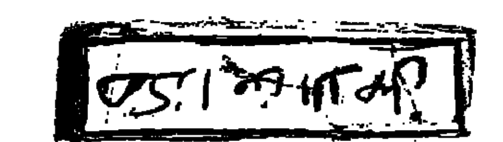
Yours faithfully,
ALAN MUIR WOOD,
Franklands, Bere Court Road,
Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 8JY.
February 5.

From Mr Paul Redstone

Sir, I support Professor Fells in his support for the bow-tie, but it can have additional disadvantages in terms of the perception of others.

Some years ago, as an entrepreneur seeking an increased overdraft from a major bank, I was told by the manager that he and his colleagues regarded the following as indicative of a bad risk in a business: large company cars, flagpoles outside the premises and directors with bow-ties.

Yours solvently,
PAUL REDSTONE,
Edgingtons,
Broad Oak Road, Cripps Corner,
Robertsbridge, Sussex TN32 5RY.
paul_redstone@csi.com
February 5.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 11: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this morning presented The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education at Buckingham Palace and afterwards Her Majesty and His Royal Highness gave a reception.

The Princess Royal and The Duchess of Kent were present.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison (Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Colonel Roderick Hill which was held at St Mary's Church, Chepstow, Gwent, today.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Major General Lennox Napier.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was represented by The Dowager Viscountess De L'Isle.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 11: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, today received Brigadier Robert Atkinson, Assistant Surgeon General, Australian Defence Force (Army).

Her Majesty was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Captain Brian Stonehouse which was held in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, this morning.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 11: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Foundation for Architecture and the Urban Environment, this morning attended a Seminar on Town Extensions.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, this evening attended a reception for ABSA's Creative Forum for Culture and the Economy.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 11: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended the London Mozart Players' Fiftieth Anniversary Concert in the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 11: The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the adolescent unit of the Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London W1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 11: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, this afternoon visited The Peckham Settlement, Goldsmith Road, London SE15.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 11: The Duke of Kent, Patron, British Computer Society, this evening attended the British Computer Society IT Awards at The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open the new outpatients department at Clevedon Cottage Hospital, Clevedon, Somerset, at 11.00; and will visit Bristol Port Company, St Andrew's Road, Avonmouth, Bristol at 12.30.

Moy Keightley

A celebration of the life of Moy Keightley, Artist, Teacher and Writer, will be held in the Music School of North London Collegiate School on Sunday, February 28, 1999, at 3.00pm. Friends, former colleagues and students are welcome. Please ring the School Office, 0181 952 0912, for further details.

University news

Emmanuel College, Cambridge
By invitation of the Master and Fellows, the first annual Gomes Lecture at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was delivered on Thursday, February 11, 1999, by Professor Amartya Sen, FBA, Master of Trinity College, on *This Cambridge and That*. Afterwards the Master, Professor J.E. Ffowcs Williams, presided at Dinner.

The Gomes Lecture and Dinner have been endowed by Cynthia Wight Rossano and Kenneth Ralph Rossano, of Boston, Massachusetts, USA, in honour of The Revd Professor Peter Gomes, Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University and Pusey Minister at the Memorial Church, Harvard. Those present were the Master and Fellows, Professor Gomes, Mr and Mrs Rossano and Miss Penelope Rossano, and guests of the College.

Pembroke College, Oxford
Anatoly Malevanets has been elected to the BTP Research Fellowship in Polymer Science at Pembroke College, Oxford.

Birthdays today

Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, 57; General Sir John Akehurst, 69; General Sir John Archer, 75; Mr Steve Backley, athlete, 30; Professor A.H. Beckett, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacy, Chelsea College, London University, 79; Mr Alexander Carlile, QC, and former MP, 51; Viscount Chandos, 46; Miss Annette Crosbie, actress, 65; Mr Howard Davies, former Director-General, CBI, 48; Dr K.J.R. Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, Leicester University, 65; Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman, Turner and Newall, 79; Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, 89.

Lord Hamlyn, 73; Miss Christine Hancock, general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 56; Mr Anthony Howard, journalist and broadcaster, 65; Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to The Queen, 79; Mr Martin Mears, former President, Law Society, 59; Lord Morison, 68; Lord Moyola, 76; Dame Alison Munro, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls School, 85; Mr John Raisman, former chairman, Shell UK, 70; Mr Justice Rougier, 67; Mr Fergus Slattery, rugby player, 48; the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, 51; Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, 61; Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, former Principal, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 73; Mr Ronald Wild, symphonic trumpeter, 91; Lord Wigoder, QC, 78; Mr Albert Williams, trade unionist, 72; Mr Franco Zeffirelli, opera, film and theatrical producer and designer, 76.

Baron Imbert

The life barony conferred upon Sir Peter Michael Imbert has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Imbert**, of New Romney in the County of Kent.

Dinners

Army Board
General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, was the host at a dinner given by the Army Board last night in the State Apartments of the Royal Hospital Chelsea for the Friends of the Army. Among those present were:

The French Ambassador, the German Ambassador, Mr Roger Jackling, General Sir Alex Harley, General Sir Michael Walker, General Sir Edward Jones, General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Vice-Admiral Sir Barry Wilson, Lieutenant-General Sir Scott Grant, Professor Sir David Davies, Sir Gordon Hourston, Sir Richard Mottram, Sir David Spedding, Sir David Walker, Sir Robert Walmsley, Major-General David Jenkins, Major-General Mike Willcocks, Major-General Kevin O'Donoghue, Mr Colin Clark, Mr Peter Gershon, Mr Tony Hall, Mr David Manning, Professor Bhikhu Parekh and Rabbi Malcolm Weisman.

Fruiterers' Company
The Archbishop of Canterbury attended the annual dinner of the Fruiterers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Judge Cryan, Master, assisted by the Wardens, presided and presented the Ridley Award to Mr Peter Wheldon for his services to fruit growing. Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Alderman Sir Christopher Leaver and Sir Rowland Whitehead also spoke. The Sheriffs attended. Among others present were:

The Ambassador for the Republic of Ireland, the Deputy High Commissioner for South Africa, the Minister-Councillor of the Moroccan Embassy, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, Baroness O'Cathain, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst and the Recorder of London.

Gray's Inn
Mr Martin Collins, QC, Treasurer of Gray's Inn, and Masters of the Bench entertained the following guests at dinner in hall last night, it being Grand Day of Hilary Term:

Lord Goff of Chieveley, FBA, Baroness Wilcox, Sir John Balcombe (treasurer, Lincoln's Inn), Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Sir Joseph Hotung, Major-General Michael Scott, Major-General E J Webb-Carter, Miss Ann Leslie, Mr Mark Littman, QC, the Rev Roger Holloway (preacher) and Mr David Machin (under treasurer).

Hunterian Society
The President of the Hunterian Society, Dr Jeffrey Rosenberg, welcomed Sir Claus Moser, FBA, Chairman of the British Museum Development Trust, and Sir Martin Holdgate, President of the Zoological Society of London, as guest speakers at the Anniversary Dinner held at the Savoy Hotel on February 11.

Royal Anniversary Trust

Viscount Younger of Leckie, KT, Chairman of the Royal Anniversary Trust, presided at a national celebration dinner held last night at Guildhall after the presentation ceremony of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, held at Buckingham Palace.

Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland, FBA, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University, and Mr Robin Gill, founder of the prizes scheme, also spoke. The 1998 prizewinners are:

Birmingham Coll of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies (Education and training for the hospitality and tourism industries), Bournemouth and Poole Coll of Art & Design (Education for the film industry), Cambridge Univ (Mathematics applied), Dundee Univ (Minimal access surgery: new techniques and treatments), Exeter Univ (Children's health and exercise: research and dissemination), Glasgow Univ (Computing science teaching and research), Godalming Coll (Real research in A Level science), Hills Road Sixth Form Coll (Upgrading facilities, teaching and community provision), Univ of Wales, Lampeter (Accreditation and up-skilling of workers from the voluntary sector), London Inst (Creativity and innovation in fashion education), Loughborough Univ (International development engineering: education training, research and consultancy), UMIST (Engineering and technology in industry: advanced degree programmes), Uni of Wales Coll of Medicine (Chemiluminescence: research and development in clinical diagnosis), Middlesex Univ (Materials for technology teaching in schools), Mid-Kent Coll of Higher and Further Education (The Frontline service: training in customer service), Plymouth Coll of Further Education (Outreach centres for retraining and lifelong learning), Reading Univ (Shakespearean research: Internet and the Globe Theatre), Royal Holloway, London Univ (Global information security: teaching and research), Royal Northern Coll of Music (Special courses enabling the teaching of musical instruments to large groups), Sheffield Univ (Innovation in humanities research: providing new cultural access through IT), Univ of Wales, Swansea (Industry oriented degrees in materials engineering).

STUART CONWAY



Paul Watkins, principal cellist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, playing the Segelman violoncello by Stradivari at Christie's South Kensington yesterday. The violoncello is expected to sell for £600,000 to £800,000 at auction on March 17

Memorial services

Colonel Roderick Hill
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Roderick Hill, former Lord-Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and Gwent, held yesterday at St Mary's, Chepstow. The Prince of Wales was represented by Major-General Lennox Napier and Princess Margaret by the Dowager Viscountess De L'Isle.

The Rev Christopher Blanchard, Vicar of Chepstow, officiated. The Right Rev Clifford Wright, said the bidding prayer and pronounced the blessing. Mr Michael Hill, son, and Mr Arthur Somerset, grandson, gave readings. Major Lord Middleton gave an address.

The Rev Gareth Evans and the Rev Michael Gollop were robed and seated in the Choir.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, the Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan and the Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council attended. Among others present were:

The Hon Geoffrey and Mrs Somerset (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Michael Hill (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Nicholas Boyd, Mr and Mrs Richard Scott-Watson, Mr and Mrs James Hill and Edward Hill (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs David Hill, Major-General and Mrs Murray Naylor, Mrs E Hinson, the Hon Benjamin and Mrs Leigh, Mr and Mrs Charles Graham.

The Earl of Leven, the Right Rev Eryl Thomas, Major-General Lord Alvingham, Lady Islwyn, Lord Raglan, Mr and Mrs Robert Boscawen, Major the Hon Richard Margesson, the Hon Lady Rous, the Hon Peter and Mrs Strutt, Brigadier the Hon H Willoughby, Brigadier Sir Jeffrey and Lady Darell, Sir Harry Llewellyn, Sir Anthony and Lady Tritton, Serena Lady Matheson, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, Lady Crawshay, Lady Hanbury-Tenison, Sir Reginald Secondé, Major C W and Lady Elizabeth Lambton.

Mr M Davies (chief executive, Caerphilly County Council), Brigadier W Mackereth (TAVRA Wales), Mr G Clay (chairman, Chepstow Racecourse) and Mrs Clay, Mr T R Coughtrie (Newport and Gwent Boys Brigade), Mr D Norris (Gwent Scout Council), Captain R L Perry (104th Regiment RA), Mr Donald Powell (Provincial Grand Master, Monmouthshire Grand Lodge), Mr John Pugh (Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools), Mr B Watkins (Council of St John in Monmouthshire).

Major-General and Mrs John Cowtan, Major-General W M E Hicks, Major-General and Mrs D A H Toler, Major-General C S Wallis-King, Major-General R H Whitworth, Colonel E Windsor-Clive, Brigadier R C Windsor-Clive, Mrs B J Adair, Mr and Mrs David Tudway Quilter, Mr A W Twiston-Davies, Mr L Polkinghorne, Captain and Mrs C Radclyffe, Mr and Mrs Charles Spencer, Mr C E Weatherby, Mrs Richard Francis, Mr Richard Meade, the Rev Michael Wenham and many other friends and former colleagues.

Mr Brian Stonehouse
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Brian Julian Warry Stonehouse, wartime Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent, held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Neil Dawson officiated.

Mr Christopher Sheepshanks and Mr Robert Stonehouse, nephew, read the lessons. Mr Peter Lee and Mme Brigitte Jourdan-Huber gave addresses. Mr Bruce Stonehouse, great-nephew, read a tribute by M Bruno Tripier. The French Ambassador was represented by Colonel Michel Perrodon.

Members of the family, friends and former colleagues were among those present.

Saddlers' Company

Mr David Snowden, Master of the Saddlers' Company, presented prizes to the winners of the Society of Master Saddlers annual saddlery competition at a reception held yesterday at Saddlers' Hall.

The winners were:

Class 1, Michael Pegg; Class 2, Martin Gulliver; Class 3, Sarah Ford; Class 4, Frances Kelly; Class 5, Lorna Griffin; Class 6, Catrien Coppens; Class 7, John McDonald; Class 8, Tabe Annema; Class 9, Johan Ulvede.

The Neil McCarraher Award in Class 1 for the company which produced the most attractive and commercially viable saddle was won by Michael Pegg and the Bruce Emtage Memorial Trophy for the best overall entry was won by Frances Kelly.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.E.G. de Capell Brooke and Miss V.M.C. van Agtmaal
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh de Capell Brooke, of Great Oakley, Northamptonshire, and Viviana, daughter of De Heer and Mevrouw Edward van Agtmaal, of s Gravenhage, The Netherlands.

Mr R.E. Ewart Smith and Miss M.H. Klien
The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of the late Mr Richard Ewart Smith and of Mrs Ewart Smith, of Walberton, West Sussex, and Marianne, daughter of the late Mr Walter Klien and of Mrs Klien, of St Leonards, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.J.U. Frew and Miss M.L. Weitzel
The engagement is announced between Colin James Urquhart, son of Dr and Mrs R.L. Frew, of Oban, Argyll, and Marjorie Lynn, youngest daughter of the late Mr C.C. Weitzel and of Mrs M.C. Gallagher, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Mr R.A. Hulme and Miss K.J. Garner
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of the late Mr A. Hulme and of Mrs Hulme, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Katharine (Minnie), daughter of Mr J.A. Garner, of Hove, Sussex, and Mrs M. Garner, of Repton, Derbyshire.

Mr G.P.D. Toosey and Miss C.E.N. Reekie
The engagement is announced between Giles, only son of Mr Patrick Toosey, of Oxton, Merseyside, and the late Penny Toosey, and Charlotte, only daughter of Dr Ian Reekie, of Blockley, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Sally Wright, of West Woodhay, Berkshire.

Mr S.R. Henderson and Miss A-L. Furminger
The engagement is announced between Scott Henderson, of Yardley, Birmingham, and Anne-Louise Furminger, of Maidstone, Kent.

Mr R.A.G. Jeans and Miss S.J.A. Villiers
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Lady Jeans and the late Sir Alick Jeans, of Heswall, Merseyside, and Sarah, daughter of the late Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher and the late Captain Sandy Villiers.

Mr M. Joyston-Bechal and Miss C.R. Bodie
The engagement is announced between Marcus, younger son of Mr and Mrs Montague Joyston-Bechal, of London NW1, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Bodie, of London NW8.

Mr J.N. Smith and Miss C.V. Dimond
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Dr and Mrs Robert Smith, of St Ippolyts, Hertfordshire, and Clare, elder daughter of Professor Bridgit Dimond and the late Professor Stuart Dimond, of Llandaff, Cardiff.

Mr P.G. Taylor and Miss C.A. Keogh
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Sir Godfrey and Lady Taylor, of Hove, East Sussex, and Clodagh, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Fintan Keogh, of Dalkey, Dublin.

Mr M.D. Young and Miss F.C. Peacock
The engagement is announced between Michael Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Young, of Great Western Road, Aberdeen, and Fleur Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Peacock, of Boltongate Old Rectory, Cumbria.

Tonbridge School

Music, Art and Technology Scholarships 1999
The following awards, listed in alphabetical order, have been made for September 1999:

Music Scholarships
Edward Bonner (King's College School, Cambridge); Oliver Brett (The New Beacon, Sevenoaks); Jonathan Burgess (Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford); Edward Cohen (Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone); Michael Collins (St Aubyns, Rottingdean); Giles Ekblom (Dulwich College Preparatory School, London); Thomas Fleming (The New Beacon, Sevenoaks); Alexander Harrild (Dulwich College Preparatory School, London); Edward Hunt (Sevenoaks Preparatory School, Sevenoaks); Alexander Knight (St Paul's Cathedral School, London); Adrian Ng (St Paul's Co-educational College, Hong Kong); Bradley Webb (Hilden Grange, Tonbridge).

Latest wills

Robin Ray, freelance broadcaster and writer, of Brighton, left estate valued at £325,312 net.

The 7th **Marquess of Ormonde**, of Burr Ridge, Illinois, US, left estate valued at £14,483 net.

Ermengarda **Rogers**, of London SW19, left estate valued at £566,900 net.

John Stuart **Bell**, of Potton, Bedfordshire, left estate valued at £1,299,836 net.

Geraldine Anne **Browne**, of Lydeard St Lawrence, Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,509,946 net.

Arthur **Collier**, of Dorking, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,253,546 net.

Gerard Nicolas Pyemont Chastel **de Boinville**, of Walkern, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,352,642 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Campion, poet and musician, London, 1567; Cotton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1663; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1861-65, Larue County, Kentucky, 1809; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Douglas, Isle of Man, 1815; George Meredith, novelist, Portsmouth, 1828; Marie Lloyd, music-hall singer, London, 1870; Omar Nelson Bradley, American Army general, Clark, Missouri, 1893; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, Leipzig, 1884.

DEATHS: Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England May 6-19, 1553, executed London, 1554; Charles Le Brun, painter, Versailles, 1690; Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1763; Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in, novelist, Peking, 1763; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1804; Sir Astley Cooper, surgeon, London, 1841; Hans von Bülow, pianist and conductor, Cairo, 1894; Lillie Langtry, actress, Monte Carlo, 1929; Charles Voysey, architect, Winchester, 1941; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Malta, 1970; Leon Goossens, oboist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1988.

Chile's independence was proclaimed in Santiago, 1818.

J.W. Goodrich of Boston, Massachusetts, invented rubber galoshes, 1831.

The first inter-club football match was played at Sheffield between Sheffield and Hallam, 1861.

The Manchu dynasty was overthrown and China became a republic, 1912.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Jesus answered: The friends of the bridegroom don't go without eating while he is still with them. But the time will come when he will be taken from them. Then they will go without eating. Matthew 9.15 (CEV).

BIRTHS

BRAND - On February 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzanne (née Goodall) and Giles, a son, William Christopher John.

CAPLAN - On 30th December 1998 in Epping, to Geraldine and John, a son, Ciaran Charles, a brother for Conor.

GAGE - On 9th February, to Anna (née Hobson) and Jonathan, Lavinia, a sister for Edward.

GRAVE - On January 29th, a son, Tobias, to Penny (née Lay) and Charlie, a brother for George.

GREEN - On February 4th 1999, to Katherine (née Ellis) and Alex, a daughter, Mariel, a sister for James.

HALES - On February 2nd 1999, to Breda Flaherty and Jonathan Hales, a fine son, Ben William.

HANCOCK - On 29th January, to Jane (née Finlayson) and Justin, a son, Albert "Bertie" Gordon Logan.

HOLMES - Jan and Nigel are proud to announce the birth of their son, Charles Michael David, a brother for Harry, born 26th January 1999.

LEIGH - On February 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Sabine and Simon, a daughter, Maya, a sister to Victoria.

LENG - On Sunday 31st January to Venetia (née Hoare) and Hamish, a daughter, Rosanna Elizabeth, a sister for Harry and a policy for school fees.

LIDDELL - On 6th February 1999 to Lucinda (née Davies) and Edward, a son, Charles Jonathan Giles, a brother to Harry and Simon.

BIRTHS

PAWLOWSKI - On February 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Antoinette Preudhomme and Anthony, a beautiful daughter, Ava.

SOOD - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Liz (née Hunt) and Arvinder, a daughter, Katie Olivia, a sister for Sophie Jane.

STEWART - On 5th February, to Nicola (née Harrison) and Alasdair, a daughter, Emily Ann, a sister for Charlie.

TODD - On February 9th at home to Carole (née Bambrough) and Julian, a son, Felix William, a brother for George, Hector and Alice.

DEATHS

BRAMALL - Sir Ashley, politician and barrister, aged 83, died peacefully on 10th February in Trinity Hospice after a short illness. Husband of Gery, father of Christopher, Richard and Anthony, brother of Dwin. His passing is a grievous loss to his family and friends. Cremation on Monday 15th February at 1.30 pm at West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, W10. Flowers to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 91 Rochester Row, SW1P 1LJ. A memorial meeting will be held at a later date.

BUTT - On 10th February 1999 peacefully at home Sir Kenneth Butt Bt., beloved husband of Joey and much loved stepfather of Carol and Donald. Flowers and all enquiries to Cecil Newling Funeral Directors, 3 Green Drift, Royston, Herts. tel: (01763) 243048.

DEATHS

BURRELL - Peacefully on February 7th 1999, Robert Michael Burrell, aged 56 years. Former Lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London. Beloved husband of Ann (née Fountain), he will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends and former students around the world. Requiem Mass at All Saints Church, Pin Green, Stevenage on Monday February 15th at 1 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to The Woodlands Trust would be greatly appreciated and may be sent c/o Austins & Sons, 9/11 Letchmore Road, Stevenage SG1 3JH. Please wear bright colours to celebrate Michael's life.

CADBURY - Michael Hotham. Suddenly on February 7th, 1999, aged 83 years. Loving Husband of Heather and Father of Andrew, Duncan and the late Janine, and a much loved Grandfather. Private cremation. Memorial Service to take place on Saturday March 13th, 1999 at 2.30 pm at the George Cadbury Hall, Selly Oak Colleges, Bristol Road, Birmingham B29. No flowers by request, donations if wished made payable to "League of Friends of Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham" or "Scout Association - County of Birmingham" may be sent to: V Morton & Sons Ltd., Funeral Directors, 705 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2JT, by March 27th please.

CHILDS - Georgette. Beloved and caring mother of Julian and devoted wife of the late Basil Childs. Died on Tuesday February 9th. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 16th February at 12.45pm. No flowers. Donations to Cancer Research or RAF Benevolent Fund. Enquiries 0171 937 0757.

DAVENPORT - Elizabeth Aurora, daughter of Maj. Gen. Sir Hugh and Lady Tudor and loving and much loved mother of David and John, grandmother of Richard, Sarah, Michael, William, Katharine, Lucy and Jeremy and great-grandmother of Peggy, Luca, William and Benedict. Died peacefully aged 94 on February 10th at St George's Nursing Home in London. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday 18th February at 12.00 noon. Flowers c/o JH Kenyon Ltd, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JU. Tel: 0171 834 4624.

FROST - Barrie on 7th February 1999 very peacefully at home after a long illness. Much loved husband of Squeak, Dad of Kate and Susie and granddad of baby Conor Barrie. Funeral Service at St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley on Wednesday 17th February 1999 at 1pm, followed by a private burial. Flowers or donations to St Christopher's Hospice and Candle Project (Bereaved Children) c/o James W. Constable F/D, 55 Honor Oak Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1EA, tel: (0181) 291-0811.

GRAHAM - Heather died 3rd February 1999, so loving of and so beloved by her late husband, Lawrie. Devoted mother of Sue, Paul and Ann. Proud granny of Mark and Lawrie. Family only funeral, at her request, has already taken place.

GRONHAUG - Arnold Conrad, CEng, FIEE, Hon. FCIBSE., died peacefully in hospital on 8th February 1999. Beloved husband of the late Patricia, dear father of Anne and Jennifer and grandfather of Andrew, Christopher, Josephine and Peter. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Wednesday 17th February, at 3.30 pm and afterwards at his home. Family flowers only please. Donations may be made to St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust c/o A & E Longhurst, 21/23 Kingston Road, Ewell, KT17 2DX.

GWILLIM - Mrs Margot Gwillim, (née Mumford). Her children are deeply saddened to announce that their mother passed away on 10th February 1999 in her 85th year. Funeral at St Matthews Church, Hayfield, Derbyshire on 17th February at 2.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations to the Royal Signals Association. Enquiries to: Jeremy Unsworth 01663 742772.

HENDRY - On 9th February 1999 peacefully in Littlehampton Nursing Home, Frederick (Fred), Flt. Lt. RAF (retd). Beloved Dad of Marian and Brian and a loving Grandfather to Jez and Clive. Service, Worthing Crematorium, Findon, on Thursday 18th February at 11.20 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for RAF Princess Marina House, Rustington, may be sent c/o F.A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton, tel: (01903) 713939.

HUNT - On February 6th 1999, peacefully at Ersham House Nursing Home, Hailsham, John Bernard, aged 85 years. Beloved husband of the late Alice, much loved father of Beryl and David, devoted grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Anne's Church, Lewes on Wednesday, February 17th at 11.15 am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research Campaign c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, BN7 2DD. 01273-475557.

JOHNSTON - Francis William, late The King's Own Scottish Borderers, on 9th February aged 93. Dearly loved husband of Felicity and the late Elizabeth, father of Judith and Timothy, grandfather and great-grandfather. Memorial Service at St Mary's Northchurch on Friday 19th February at 11.30 am. No flowers. Donations to The Hertfordshire Association for Young People, The Valley School, Stevenage SG2 9AB.

LITTLE - On 9th February 1999 at Coleraine Hospital, after devoted care, Joan, of 2 Ashlea Avenue, Ballymoney, daughter of Major and Mrs JW McConnell, Anne's sister, loving and much loved wife of William (deceased), No. 1 Ma to Julian, "belle-belle-mère" to Margaret, "Mamie-Joan" to William, Francesca and Patrick.

LORANT - Eva Elizabeth aged 88 years on 3rd February 1999 in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, after a short illness. A private cremation has taken place.

MANDER - John FRCS FRCOG peacefully in his sleep on 7th February. Much loved and devoted father of Philip, Jane, Maria and James and grandfather of 7. Funeral Service and cremation at York Crematorium Friday 12th February 10 am. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cheshire Homes.

McDONALD - Ronald James died unexpectedly at home on the 8th February aged 70. Loving husband of Kathleen and much loved father of Janet and Ian and grandfather of Samuel. Funeral at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 16th February at Mortlake Crematorium. Further enquiries to Sanders & Sons, 447 Upper Richmond Road, East Sheen, London. 0181 876 4673.

MORRIS - On February 9th 1999, aged 86, died peacefully after a short illness, Lieutenant-Colonel John Morris, late of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Beloved husband of Nan, proud father of Richard, Judith and Jane and a much loved grandfather to his eleven grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Baldreds Church, North Berwick on Tuesday February 16th at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the R.G.B.W. Regimental Charities may be sent to G Wood & Hay Funeral Directors, 43 Court Street, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 3AE. Tel 01620 823903.

PLATT - Samuel Jack on 10th February in Benalmadena, Malaga aged 96. Beloved husband of Helen, father of Nina and Michael, much loved grandfather of Peter, Caroline, Helen, Claire and Irene.

PLUMMER - Donald Pescott of The Daffodils, Doyle Road, Guernsey, on February 9th 1999 aged 85. Former Deputy Senior Technologist of the Shell oil company and Jurat of the Royal Court of Guernsey. Beloved husband of Margaret and father of Edmund, Caroline and Osmond. A man of God.

PRYS-WILLIAMS - Eve Cuthbertson (née Jones), widow of Gwylmor and mother of Allan, on 9th February in her 80th year in Swansea.

RANK - Joseph McArthur on February 10th aged 80 after a long illness. Loving husband of Moira. Much loved father of Caroline, Colin and Camilla and brother of John. Family funeral at Holy Trinity Brompton, family flowers only please, all enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, W8 6LA (0171) 937-0757. No letters or flowers to Moira please. A Memorial Service will be held at Holy Trinity Brompton at 12 noon on March 19th.

SINGH - Dr. Nawal K.P., late of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, died Sunday 7th February, while in India. Deeply mourned.

SMITH - Peacefully on 8th February 1999 in Oklahoma, City, USA, Leslie Francis Smith MA PhD, aged 97 years. Former lecturer at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, USA, Maine University and Columbia University, New York. Dear husband of the late Liv Lunderval, loving father of Joan Borden, grandfather of Barbara, Brad and Brian, great-grandfather of Rebecca and Caroline. Loved by his only remaining sister Rita and her children. "Unforgettable that's what you are".

SMITH - Nancy Elizabeth (née Hawley) died peacefully at home on 9th February 1999; much loved wife of David, and loved by Ian and Elaine, Margaret and Kevin, Helen and Yousef, Jane and Anthony, Derek and Tessa, and her grandchildren David, Guy, Henry, Kate, Archie, Sacha and Oliver. Funeral at Southampton Crematorium on Thursday 18th February at 12.30pm. No flowers please, but any donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

WARDE-NORBURY - Alistair George, much loved son of Philippe and Tony and brother of Mark, died on February 8th 1999 aged 32 years. Service of Thanksgiving at All Saints Church, Hooton Pagnell on Wednesday 17th February at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to 'MIND' c/o Ian Hammerton, 217A Wakefield Road, Barnsley. S71 1NT. Enquiries tel: 01226 283753.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

MORGAN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Hilary Morgan will be held at St. John's Church, Bollington, on Saturday 27th February at noon. All welcome.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

CLEMENTS - Edward 12th February 1997. Remembering you today and every day, Valerie.

HALLEY - G. Stiven M.D., M.R.C.P., late of Ascot, Berkshire. Happy memories of a beloved physician and father, on what would have been his 100th birthday. His son and daughter.

LINE - Roland 12th February 1998, lovingly remembered and missed. Dorothy, Margaret and family.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

WICKHAM - In remembrance of Esther Barbara, our adored mother, on this, the anniversary of her death. Our love and devotion are hers for ever. Colin, Andrew and Sarah.



ULRICA MURRAY SMITH

Ulrica Murray Smith, Joint Master of the Quorn hunt 1959-85, died on January 22 aged 87. She was born on May 5, 1911.

In 1928 Ulrica Thynne should have been preparing for the traditional season of a London debutante. But her father, Colonel Ulric Thynne, an outstanding horseman and first-class polo player, suggested to his daughter that she might enjoy a month's riding in the shires before the round of balls and parties. So much did she turn out to enjoy it that her London "season" never took place.

Ulrica Marjorie Thynne had a somewhat sketchy education, but came from aristocratic stock. Her grandfather was the younger son of the 3rd Marquess of Bath; her grandmother was Lady Ulrica Seymour, daughter of the 12th Duke of Somerset.

In 1936 she married Tony Murray Smith, a young officer in the Royal Horse Guards, whose passion for hunting matched his bride's. They met in the hunting field, and after their marriage lived the traditional "rotation" of a young Household Cavalry couple, hunting in the winter, polo in the summer and racing in England and France.

The young couple did not allow the outbreak of war to part them, and the fearless Ulrica, who enjoyed any challenge, managed with some ingenuity to follow her husband to Palestine in the spring of 1940. Together with Ruth Wood (later Lady Halifax) she shared a house at Nathanya, and when their husbands were on leave, they toured the Middle East. They stayed with a sheikh, went camel racing, and the stables at Nathanya produced some outstanding horses. Ulrica was often a winner in ladies' races.

By the autumn of 1940 the few wives who had succeeded in getting into Palestine were told that they had to leave and return to England. This set a further challenge for Ulrica, who set out for India with her friends Ruth Wood, Mary Duchess of Roxburghe and the late Lady Cadogan. They made their base in Aly Khan's house in Bombay.

Much to everyone's astonishment, Ulrica became a close friend of Dina Wadia, daughter of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, head of the Muslim League and later Governor-General of Pakistan.

After the war, the Murray Smiths returned to Leicestershire. The family home, Gumley, was still requisitioned by the Army (and later pulled down), so they moved into a rented house and hunted with the Quorn, the Fernie and Belvoir hunts. Postwar hunting was a rather different picture, with fewer people out and little petrol. Ploughed fields had appeared, and the dreaded wire had gone up.

In 1954 Tony Murray Smith was invited to become Master of the Quorn. It was not a particularly opportune moment for him. That year he was not only High Sheriff of Leicestershire, but had been made Colonel of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. By this time, they were living at Gumley, which was far from the centre of Quorn country. They moved their horses to the hunt kennels, and spent a great deal of time "on the road". Ulrica took up a new career, showjumping, much to the disapproval of the legendary Quorn huntsman George Barker, who considered showjumpers "inferior creatures".

Ulrica became the perfect consort for her husband in his duties as Master. She never ceased to attend suppers, skittle evenings, pony club events and puppy shows, which became her life for the next 30 years. She accompanied her husband on visits to all the farmers, and this stood her in good stead when she became a Joint Master five years later. The Murray Smiths became two of the most popular people in the hunting world, and in 1957 they moved to Gaddesby, where Ulrica lived for the rest of her life.



Ulrica Murray Smith in 1979: she was widely loved for her long service as Joint Master of the Quorn

It was a cause of great distress to their friends when Tony Murray Smith left Ulrica in 1960. He later married Sally Hanbury, former wife of James Hanbury, a Master of the Belvoir. But Ulrica, who had already enjoyed one season as Joint Master of the Quorn, made it a condition of their separation and divorce that she would stay on as Joint Master of the Quorn. Tony Murray Smith returned to a house at Gumley and took the Fernie Hounds. For the next 25 years, Ulrica was the senior Joint Master of the Quorn.

Some potential Quorn members were somewhat wary when they heard that the pack had a lady Master, but with her inimitable charm and wit, she always made them extremely welcome, and most became lifelong admirers. "Carpetbaggers" were out as far as Ulrica was concerned, but people who genuinely enjoyed hunting, and showed it, were made to feel totally at home by the Master.

Her hospitality was known far and wide, and when in the 1970s she found herself without a cook, she recruited a young American priest, who hunted with the Quorn, and had the added attraction of being an outstanding cook. Soufflés poured out of Gaddesby's kitchen until "Father Rick" announced that he had to return to Utah to manage a considerable family fortune. Somewhat annoyed, she told him that he had been sent to Leicestershire to look after her body and soul — and he had only done half of the job. Now she felt he should stay on to work on her soul. Unfortunately he was unable to oblige.

After Alan Whicker had made a television film about the Quorn, he told her that he could not see that it was cruel to the fox, but he did think that it was terribly cruel to the people who rode to hounds. "Leicestershire seemed to echo with the dull crack of breaking bones." She was a regular visitor to Nottingham General Hospital.

In the mid-1970s many people asked her to write a book about her hunting experiences. She published *The Magic of the Quorn* in 1980, with a foreword by the Prince of Wales, who had by then had five sessions with the Quorn, and was captivated by her style of leadership.

Ulrica Murray Smith was always quick to praise her fellow Masters, the hunt secretaries and her devoted hunt servants. She was extremely modest about her own, all-important role in the life of the Quorn, and when a succession of parties in her honour followed her retirement in 1985, she was genuinely surprised at the legion of admirers who had followed her career for more than 50 years.

LADY ROBSON OF KIDDINGTON

Baronness Robson of Kiddington, former President of the Liberal Party and a Liberal Democrat spokesman in the House of Lords, died on February 9 aged 79. She was born on August 20, 1919.

SWEDISH-BORN Inga-Stina Robson served the British Liberal cause with distinction for more than 40 years. She fought four parliamentary elections, became president of the party and was an assiduous working peer. Above all, she was instrumental, with her husband, in saving the National Liberal Club after a series of financial and other scandals had threatened the citadel of traditional liberalism with extinction. Grateful members made her their chairman until her death.

Stina Robson — she was never called anything else — was an outstanding figure at the old Liberal Assemblies. She was always beautifully dressed, her designer clothes contrasting with the appearance of the anorak tendency — as, for that matter, did her politics. She never regarded pavement repairs as the route to power, and resisted with all her energy the growing radicalisation of the party. Her deep, sometimes husky voice, the result of chain-smoking, with remnants of her Swedish accent, delivered speeches which matched the elegance of her clothes.



Lady Robson at Queen Charlotte's Ball in 1990. She chaired the hospital's board of governors

She was a loyal supporter of Jeremy Thorpe throughout his leadership of the party and beyond. During the Thorpe years she was a prominent Liberal hostess, and many decisions about party strategy were taken at her home, Kiddington Hall in Oxfordshire.

After her education in Stockholm, she joined the Swedish Foreign Office, which sent her to London at the beginning of the war. She met and married Sir Lawrence Robson, who was to become a highly successful City figure, and thus, as a British subject, she was enabled to work at the Ministry of Information.

During the 1950s her husband's thoughts turned to politics, and he was chosen to stand as the Liberal candidate for the constituency of Eye. However, at almost the last moment his developing business interests prevented him from standing, so his wife took his place. It was a hopeless task. Eye had been a Liberal seat in the past, held by Edgar (later Lord) Granville, but by 1955 he was fighting as the Labour candidate against the Tory incumbent. Predictably enough, the Conservative won.

She fought the seat once more in 1959 against the same two opponents, and again she came bottom of the poll. She was also third in two subsequent election attempts, when she stood for Gloucester in 1964 and 1966. She had made sufficient impact, however, to become chairman of her party in 1970. That was the year she entered Parliament as a life peer.

In the Lords, as in her party, she was in the minority in a man's world, but this never affected her. She knew more about business than most men — her wide financial interests meant she could quote the price of many shares — and as the owner of a large estate in Scotland she was able to discuss farming as an expert.

Stina Robson's interests, however, were not confined to party politics. She was chairman of the board of governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital and the Chelsea Hospital for 14 years, and from 1974 to 1982 she was chairman of the South West Thames Regional Health Authority. Her two interests coincided when she was appointed Liberal Democrat spokesman on health in the Lords. She attended the Upper House regularly until nearly the end of her life, when she was prevented by osteoporosis. Her husband died in 1982. She leaves a son and two daughters.

BETH WAGSTAFF



Wagstaff seen last year: she combined political wiles and professional judgment

Beth Wagstaff, Assistant Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council and founder of the Lavender Trust, died of cancer on January 29 aged 39. She was born on September 3, 1959.

LOCAL government has never been the dreary, dusty world that its detractors portray, but the death of Beth Wagstaff has certainly robbed the municipal scene of one of its brightest personalities. Her star shone brightly because she combined the wiles of a ward politician with the professional judgment of a local authority officer and the passion of a believer in local democracy.

She played a key role in the battles between London local authorities and the Conservative Government in the mid-1980s. As a councillor in the London Borough of Lewisham, she was in the forefront of the rate-capping dispute, in which local councils refused to set a rate in an attempt to avoid cuts in services. She was a firm advocate of equal rights for women, helping to set up one of local government's first women's committees.

But Wagstaff was no left-wing automaton. Her warmth and sense of humour charmed diehard Socialists and backwoods Tories in equal measure, making her an ideal candidate to lobby Parliament on behalf of the Greater London Council's unsuccessful attempts to thwart Margaret Thatcher's abolition plans.

Once Ken Livingstone and his band of radicals had been ejected from County Hall, Wagstaff, as press officer, set about establishing the London Labour boroughs organisation, the Association of London Authorities, as the voice of London. She also campaigned fervently for the restoration of London-wide government, now being implemented.

Wagstaff went on to be director of public relations for the borough of Camden, and quickly moved to rescue the council from its "loony Left" reputation. Her canny cultivation of the media and her ability to spot public relations disasters before they reached the front pages established her as one of the most accomplished spin-doctors in local government.

She was then offered a communications post by Hertfordshire County Council, where she was swiftly promoted to assistant chief executive.

Four years ago breast cancer was diagnosed and she began a battle to improve not only her own condition, but that of others. Because breast cancer is more common in older women, the needs of sufferers like Wagstaff, who have careers and children, are often ignored or misunderstood. She founded the Lavender Trust to put that right.

Despite being seriously ill, she was tireless in her efforts on behalf of the charity, which was set up in memory of her friend the journalist Ruth Picardie, whose own struggles with breast cancer were recorded in a series of articles in *The Observer*.

Wagstaff enlisted the support of pop stars such as Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, and Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour, and the designer florist Paula Pryke, and as a result the trust has raised £200,000 in less than eight months. Her own fight against cancer was the subject of a Channel 4 documentary.

Bethany Wagstaff was born in Redruth, Cornwall, and educated at Falmouth Comprehensive. She came to London as a student at Goldsmiths College, where she became the first woman president of the union. On graduation, she worked for two Labour MPs, Chris Price and Chris Smith (now the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport), before working for the GLC.

She is survived by her husband, Jon Lansman, and by three children.

ON THIS DAY

February 12, 1962

Francis Gary Powers's high-altitude spy-plane was shot down in May 1960 after flying over Soviet missile sites. Powers admitted acting under CIA orders and a Soviet court sentenced him to ten years' detention. The incident led to the collapse of the Paris summit meeting between President Eisenhower and Khrushchev.

POWERS REUNITED WITH FAMILY

A sensation has been caused in Washington by the exchange, announced yesterday, of Captain Francis Gary Powers, the U2 pilot imprisoned by the Russians, and Mr Frederic Pryor, an American student detained by the East Germans, for Colonel Rudolf Abel, the Soviet spy sentenced in the United States in 1957.

The State Department is anxious to minimise the political significance of the exchange, a typical reflex action of the Department no matter who happens to be living in the White House, but the fact remains that reporters were awakened early yesterday to be told the news at 3.15am.

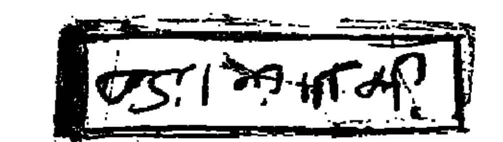
President Kennedy is back where he began a year ago when, at his first press conference, the release was announced of the surviving members of the crew of the RB47 reconnaissance aircraft shot down near or over Soviet territory. The exchange of Colonel Abel for Captain Powers and Mr Pryor cannnot necessarily be dismissed because last year's gesture was followed by the meeting of Mr Kennedy and Mr Khrushchev in Vienna, the division of Berlin, and the Soviet resumption of tests. Too much has happened recently and if the State Department remains unimpressed, the White House has a different view.

A senior official of the Department recently dismissed the White House efforts to improve contacts and communications with the Soviet Union as superficial. The object is a modest one . . . The Soviet view of the Powers exchange — that a wish to improve Soviet-American relations influenced the decision — is dismissed, for there is a belief that little can be expected until each country has a better understanding of the other.

Captain Powers's release was largely effected by Mr James Donovan, a lawyer who defended Colonel Abel and in this instance was also acting for Powers's father, but the initiative was Mrs Abel's. She must have acted with the knowledge of the Soviet Government. Neither country seems to have benefited much from the actual exchange; Colonel Abel has been in prison for nearly five years, and therefore can have little useful intelligence to divulge, and the Central Intelligence Agency has only one crucial question to ask of Powers.

Mr Khrushchev claimed that Powers's aircraft was brought down by a missile while flying at 68,000 feet, a claim suggesting that the Soviet air defence system is better than was thought. The belief here is that because of a technical fault known as a plane-out Powers lost altitude and was then forced down by Soviet fighters.

Powers is not regarded as a hero. Some people, brought up on a diet of television violence, are disappointed that he did not destroy himself with the weapons liberally furnished for that purpose by his employers, the CIA. His behaviour at his trial also did not commend him to those who expect the highest standards of behaviour in others, although he showed more dignity than those servicemen brainwashed in Korea. At best he is an embarrassment to the Administration.



THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Betting link with soccer blackouts

Scotland Yard and the FA yesterday launched a nationwide investigation into sabotage of floodlights at football grounds by a betting ring linked to the Far East.
A nationwide search has been launched at football grounds for a sophisticated device which disables floodlights. The police fear a number of the devices are already in place across the country and could threaten matches this season............Page 1

£7 million deal for new Barclays boss

Barclays Bank is to splash out more than £7 million on its new group chief executive, a former US Marine who was partly responsible for creating America's biggest bank. Mike O'Neill comes to Britain to a pay package that far outstrips anything offered by the rival High Street banks — and it is worth almost ten times as much as Barclays paid his predecessor......Page 1

Vanessa fakes
The BBC suspended three programme makers and announced a sweeping review of all broadcasts involving members of the public after it emerged that four guests on Vanessa Feltz's daytime chat show were fakes.......Page 1

Kosovo force readied
British tanks and other armoured vehicles are to be loaded onto ferries next week in preparation for possible peacekeeping action in Kosovo.......................Pages 1, 18

Drugs on prison boy
An eight-year-old boy was detained by police after he was found carrying drugs, thought to be heroin, during a visit to a prison...................................Page 3

Nazi horrors relived
The former British Rail ticket collector accused of war crimes faced a former schoolfriend who claims he saw him murdering 15 naked Jewish women with a sub-machinegun...........................Page 5

Gay sex sentences cut
Five men convicted of taking part in gay sex parties that were recorded on home video have had their sentences reduced by the Court of Appeal................Page 6

Mellon's art legacy
Paul Mellon, the late American Anglophile, has left huge gifts to the US National Gallery and the British art centre that he founded at Yale University............Page 7

Taxes divide town
The opportunity to set their own council tax in a revolutionary referendum has divided families and neighbours in the new town of Milton Keynes...................Page 8

Welsh leadership
Tony Blair's new Labour campaign machine has resorted to Old Labour tricks in a last-ditch attempt to secure the election of Alun Michael as party leader in Wales.................................Page 10

Investments lost
People who are unable to manage their own savings are losing millions of pounds because of bad investments by the Public Trust Office, according to the National Audit Office..............................Page 11

Waiting list directive
Frank Dobson has told the National Health Service to cut the hospital waiting list by another 20,000 in three months...Page 12

Fabius defends role
Laurent Fabius, the former French Prime Minister, brushed aside allegations of manslaughter against him as he sought to distance himself from the Aids scandal over tainted blood.....Page 13

Gibraltar row widens
Tensions between Britain and Spain escalated sharply after the Government accused Madrid of breaking European law over its threat to stop accepting Gibraltar driving licences...............Page 17

This Valentine's, say it with a whale

This Valentine's Day, minke rather than mink will be the gift of choice for the environmentally friendly romantic. The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on the Isle of Mull is offering suitors the chance to adopt a 30ft minke whale for £100 and name it after their beloved. Cally Fleming, the trust's co-ordinator, said that whales were true romantics and very loyal..........Page 11

MICHAEL URBAN / REUTERS



Subtlety went out the window in Cologne yesterday as women's day marked the final six days of street carnivals across Germany

Shell problems: Shell produced the worst results in its century-long history, reporting a 95 per cent fall in net income.......................Page 27

BT growth: BT's share price shot up by more than 10 per cent as the company revealed a dramatic rise in Internet use and the best growth in turnover since 1990...........Page 27

EDS deal: Dick Brown, the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless, lived up to expectations of big changes at Electronic Data Systems, announcing a £10 billion deal with MCI WorldCom........Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 118.3 points to 5888.5. The pound fell 0.35 cents to $1.6253 and was unchanged against the euro at 69.50p. The sterling index fell to 99.9 from 100.0...............................Page 30

Football: Despite his caretaker role, Howard Wilkinson now appears unlikely to be offered the chance to become permanent England manager, prompting speculation that Kevin Keegan may be offered the post...............Page 48, 52

Rugby league: Ellery Hanley, the former Great Britain coach, is preaching what he practises in his new role at St Helens........Page 46

Golf: Spectators were given a glimpse of the old and the new in Spanish golf when Severiano Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia played together in the Desert Classic in Dubai.......................................Page 50

Tennis: Tim Henman moved into the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open with a 6-3, 7-6 victory over Jonas Bjorkman.......................Page 52

Richard Morrison in jail: "Art won't turn criminals into saints, but it can divert pent-up energies and festering resentments into positive self-expression"...............Page 35

Pop 1: How does a complete unknown like Freddie Meyer plug his debut single? With a TV commercial, Caitlin Moran is amazed to discover. Plus Gay Dad — the view behind the hype.......................Page 36

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews the week's top album releases, including the Creatures and Blondie. Plus the rise and rise of Christian rock band dc Talk......................Page 37

Auntie's war: Stephen Poliakoff's investigation of the BBC in the 1930s, *Talk of the City*, moves to London, and Benedict Nightingale finds the play timely............................Page 38

D'OH!

Tomorrow in The Saturday Times

The new Simpsons comic strip

Surviving: Joanne Webster was an idealistic mother. But she now admits to shoplifting in her battle to make ends meet.................Page 19

Jane Shilling: "The way retailers encourage us to spend lots of money on Valentine's Day does a lot to foster the misunderstanding that exists about presents"...........Page 20

Outer limits: Rob and Ewan want a wife. Will some girls join them in the Outer Hebrides?..........Page 21

Raymond Snoddy: "Alastair Campbell's lecture at the Fabian Society contained several serious points. He believes that the broadcast media still allow their agenda to be set for them by newspapers that have become ever more cynical and less willing to cover the important debates of the day"..........Page 42

Outdoors bound: As the number of outdoor centres falls, the chances of inner-city children being offered a a chance to spend time away from home is shrinking fast......Page 45

Like publicly-traded corporations, the IOC needs annual audits by outside examiners and strict conflict-of-interest rules. It also needs to clean out the management team that tolerated the bribe-taking culture. Only then can the IOC hope to rebuild its credibility.

The New York Times

Preview: The 1970s return in the new sitcom *Days Like These* (ITV, 8.30pm) **Review:** Animal "behaviourists". Whatever next? asks Paul Hoggart.....................Pages 50, 51

Test Tube
Valentine's Day is a date for romance. Yet on the London Underground, Sunday will be a day of trouble as union members begin a 48-hour strike......................Page 23

Failed in Wales
If Mr Blair's plans in Wales come unstuck it will be poetic justice. He has attempted to impose his man by underhand methods.....Page 23

Rock and a hard place
Spain's sudden bullying of Gibraltar is a disgrace: a breach of EU law and a breach of international civility.............................Page 23

PETER RIDDELL
Like the Loch Ness monster, the threat of English nationalism is more discussed than sighted. Yet politicians of all parties are nervous about the reaction in England to devolution..............................Page 10

SIMON JENKINS
This was the American Constitution rolled out on parade with all the overkill of a ballistic missile in Red Square. It may not terrify the enemy, but it certainly terrified Americans..............................Page 22

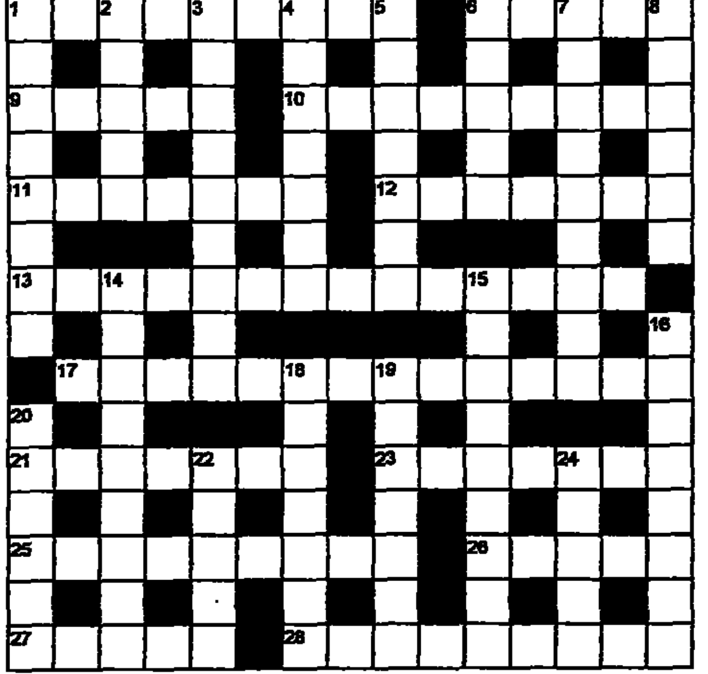
TIM HAMES
What the country wants is for the Conservative leadership to throw itself at the feet of single mothers, small businessmen, home owners, even Eurosceptic scribblers — sell their soul out, beg for mercy and really mean it.......................Page 22

PHILIP HOWARD
There is no alternative medicine, from copper bracelets and sticking pins into oneself, from having pendulums dangled over one's belly to smells and bells, too silly not to attract some true believers...Page 22

Ulrica Murray Smith, joint master of the Quorn hunt; **Lady Robson of Kiddington**, former President of the Liberal Party; **Beth Wagstaff**, Lavender Trust founder....Page 25

Institute of Directors on euro; Oxford University Press poetry list closure; morse code; the Church in the suburbs; King Hussein.....Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,025



ACROSS
1 They restrain workers about to strike (9).
6 Fast and loose? Yes and no (5).
9 Voraciously devour bird (5).
10 Put on coat for protection and almost disappear in storm (9).
11 Insect that may take to the woods (7).
12 Sudden urge to have beans etc. on the motorway coming back (7).
13 He used to appear for a rubber in the palace (5,2,3,4).
17 One book to study and another to publish – is that practical? (5-3-6).
21 Mat under glass vessel (7).
23 Possibly bad sign for Corporation (7).
25 Downfall of artist affected by drink (9).
26 Girl's radical pronouncement (5).
27 Dim British king (5).
28 Miser converted to Church finding forgiveness (9).

DOWN
1 Evidence of the past of a woman with sex appeal, and mature (8).
2 Way of buying something reduced by 50%? Certainly not! (5).
3 Smooth-flowing style in tale can become chaotic (9).
4 It allows artist to make a decent figure (3,4).
5 Mercenary in flesh is revolting (7).
6 Vessel similar to drifter? (5)
7 Diver in craft going round lake on test (9).
8 Poured down and overflowed (6).
14 Report arrives in original wrapper (9).
15 One who washes the French sort of uniform (9).
16 Tale-telling American statesman (8).
18 Muse welcomed by rising artist, one producing "Bubbles"? (7).
19 Outline of unfinished madrigal reconstructed (7).
20 Mark of wound a black beetle made (6).
22 Drag queen's strong point (5).
24 Sudanese leader taking part in horrid Hamitic rising? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,024

COHABIT PARTING
O O E R R E N R
PUNCTUATE LISLE
E E E V C E U E
SOLDERINGIRON
O T S S A E H
FLYAKITE STUDIO
F N Y C E U
PASTOR HONDURAS
U T W I V A E
TRIALANDERROR
T L E F R O E B
IDLED ALLOWABLE
N E G C E E I V
GARMENT TOLSTOY

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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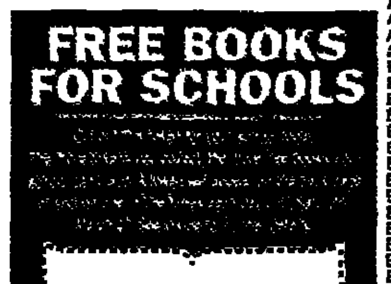
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Moon sets: 1.20 pm Moon rises: 4.35 am
New moon Feb 16

London 5.09 pm to 7.19 am
Bristol 5.19 pm to 7.29 am
Edinburgh 5.09 pm to 7.44 am
Manchester 5.13 pm to 7.33 am
Penzance 5.34 pm to 7.37 am



☐ **General:** Wales and western England will have a lot of low cloud and mist with light rain later in morning. Eastern England will be drier but mainly cloudy. A band of rain will spread across Scotland.
☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Cent S England:** mainly cloudy and dry with sunny spells later. Light S wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).
☐ **Midlands, E, Cent N & NE England:** chilly start but some sunny spells before cloud thickens. Light SW wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).
☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, Wales, NW England, L District, IoM:** cloudy, some light rain. Light SW wind. Max 6-9C (43-48F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland:** cloud building bringing rain from mid-morning. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland, Argyll:** cloudy and wet morning but sunny spells and only isolated showers by afternoon. Light SW wind veering NW. Max 6-9C (43-48F).
☐ **Cent Highlands:** cloudy with snow on peaks, rain lower down. Brighter later. Moderate SW wind. Max 3-6C (37-43F).
☐ **N Ireland:** cloudy and dull with rain and drizzle but decent sunny spells developing. Light SW then NW. Max 7-9C (45-48F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** dull, wet start, becoming drier, fresh or strong S winds decreasing. Max 8-10C (46-50F).
☐ **Outlook:** milder, rain on Sunday.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

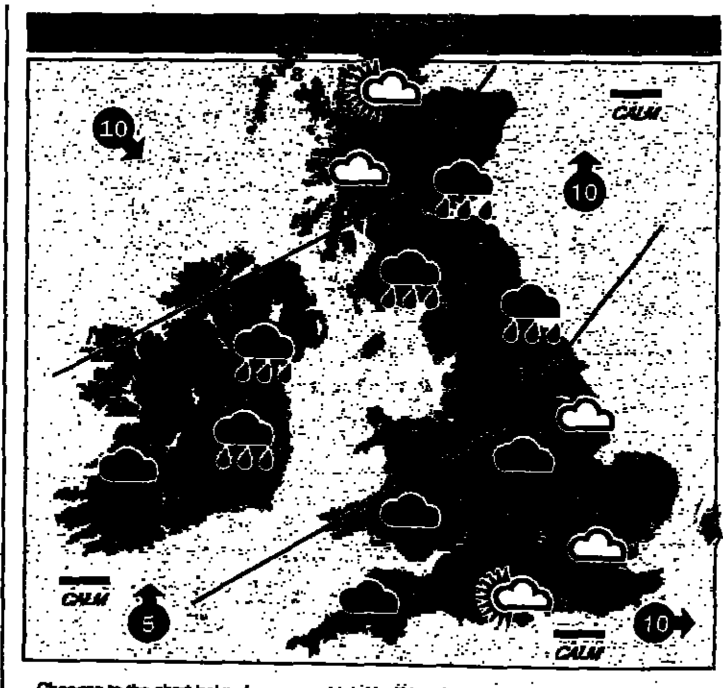
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	2.8	0.01	7	45	sh
Anglesey	3.5	0.01	8	46	s
Aspatria	0.3	0.01	8	46	r
Aviemore	1.2	0.04	5	41	c
Belfast	3.2	0.01	7	45	fg
Birmingham	0.5	0.01	5	41	b
Bognor R	7.2	-	7	45	s
Bristol	0.5	-	7	45	b
Buxton	-	0.05	3	37	c
Cardiff	0.8	-	9	48	b
Clacton	7.0	-	5	41	s
Cleethorpes	-	-	3	37	c
Colwyn Bay	4.1	-	9	48	s
Cromer	3.7	0.03	5	41	b
Eastbourne	8.7	0.01	7	45	s
Edinburgh	3.8	0.01	9	48	c
Eskdalemuir	2.7	0.01	7	45	s
Exmouth	1.2	-	7	45	c
Fishguard	3.7	0.02	7	45	s
Folkestone	7.9	-	6	43	s
Glasgow	0.1	0.01	8	46	d
Guernsey	7.8	-	9	48	s
Hastings	8.4	-	7	45	s
Hayling I.	7.1	-	6	43	s
Herne Bay	6.9	-	6	43	s
Hove	6.6	-	7	45	s
Hunstanton	-	0.09	3	37	c
Isle of Man	6.6	0.01	9	48	s
Isle of Wight	X	-	6	43	s
Jersey	8.7	-	7	45	s

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Kinloss	0.7	0.02	8	46	c
Leeds	-	0.01	6	43	sn
Lerwick	2.9	0.02	4	39	sh
Leuchars	4.3	0.01	9	48	s
Littlehampton	7.1	-	7	45	s
London	4.9	-	6	43	s
Lowestoft	5.2	0.12	4	39	sn
Manchester	-	0.01	4	39	sn
Margate	5.4	0.01	5	41	s
Morecambe	-	0.01	6	43	du
Newcastle	0.6	0.01	7	45	b
Newquay	4.7	0.01	9	48	s
Norwich	5.3	0.06	6	43	s
Oxford	0.4	-	5	41	c
Penzance	4.0	0.02	10	50	s
Poole	2.3	-	6	43	c
Prestatyn	3.1	0.01	7	45	s
Ross on Wye	-	-	5	41	c
Saunton Sands	4.1	0.01	9	48	s
Scarborough	-	0.04	3	37	r
Shrewsbury	0.5	0.01	6	43	c
Skegness	-	0.01	3	37	c
Southend	7.1	-	5	41	s
Southport	X	-	7	45	s
Southsea	8.1	-	7	45	s
Stornoway	3.7	0.02	7	45	b
Swanage	4.5	-	7	45	s
Teignmouth	1.5	0.01	8	46	c
Tenby	4.3	0.01	9	48	s
Tiree	2.8	0.02	8	46	sh

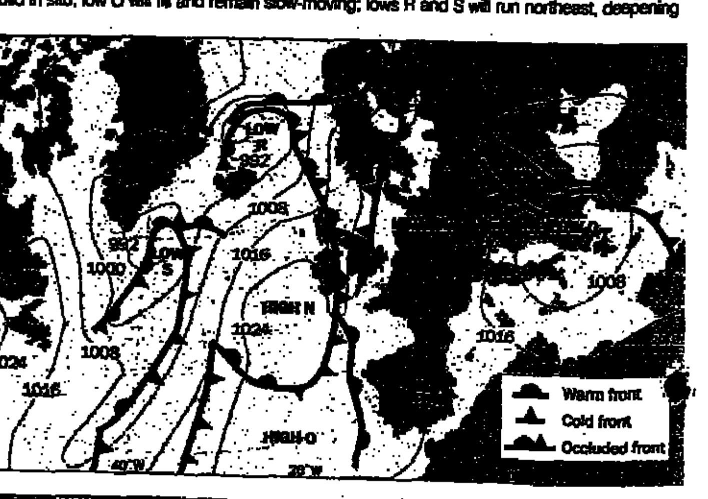
Extremes: highest day max: Penzance, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, 2C (36F). highest rainfall: Altnaharra, Highland, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Eastbourne and Jersey: 8.7hr.

	C	F	
Ajaccio	8	46	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s
Algiers	11	52	f
Amst'dm	1	34	f
Athens	16	61	s
Bahrain	22	72	s
Bangkok	33	91	s
Barbados	X		
Barcelona	10	50	s
Beijing	6	43	s
Beirut	16	61	f
Belgrade	3	37	c
Berlin	-4	25	f
Bermuda	21	70	s
Biarritz	3	37	c
Bordeaux	4	39	f
Brussels	0	32	f
Budapest	0	32	sn
B Aires	29	84	f
Cairo	21	70	s
Cape Tn	26	79	s
Chicago	12	54	f
Chrchrch	31	88	s
Cologne	2	36	c
C'phagn	-2	28	f
Corfu	13	55	r
Dublin	3	37	c
Dubrovnik	11	52	r
Faro	13	55	s
Florence	2	36	f
Frankfurt	-1	30	sn
Funchal	19	66	f
Geneva	0	32	s
Gibraltar	14	57	s
Helsinki	-18	0	s
Hong K	24	75	f
Innsbruck	-3	27	f
Istanbul	12	54	f
Jeddah	30	86	s
Jo'burg	24	75	f
L Palmas	19	66	c
Le Touquet	2	36	f
Lisbon	11	52	s
Locarno	6	43	s
L Angeles	11	52	s
Luxembg	-1	30	f
Luxor	26	79	f
Madrid	6	43	f
Majorca	6	43	d
Malaga	14	57	s
Malta	18	64	s
Melbourne	30	86	f
Mexico C	20	68	s
Miami	24	75	r
Milan	3	37	c
Montreal	-1	30	s
Moscow	-3	27	f
Munich	-3	27	sn
Nairobi	31	88	s
Naples	13	55	r
N Delhi	17	63	fg
N York	8	46	s
Nice	12	54	f
Oslo	-12	10	s
Paris	2	36	f
Perth	29	84	s
Prague	-4	25	s
Reykjavik	2	36	r
Rhodes	17	63	f
Rio de J	25	77	f
Riyadh	22	72	s
Rome	11	52	r
Salzburg	-3	27	c
S Frisco	9	48	s
Santiago	31	88	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	5	41	c
Singapore	31	88	f
Stockholm	-8	18	c
Strasb'rg	-1	30	f
Sydney	24	75	f
Tangier	13	55	f
Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Tenerife	20	68	c
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	3	37	s
Tunis	17	63	s
Valencia	11	52	s
Vancv'er	1	34	c
Venice	0	32	sn
Vienna	-1	30	f
Warsaw	-5	23	f
Wash'ton	14	57	s
Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Zurich	-4	25	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high N will be absorbed by high O, and the high M build in situ; low O will fill and remain slow-moving; lows R and S will run northeast, deepening



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	10:45	3.6	23:19	3.6
Avonmouth	3:53	10.1	16:23	10.5
Belfast	8:12	3.0	20:34	3.0
Cardiff	3:39	9.5	16:09	9.8
Devonport	2:26	4.5	15:00	4.5
Dover	8:15	5.3	20:48	5.5
Dublin	8:56	3.5	21:29	3.6
Falmouth	1:57	4.3	14:31	4.3
Greenock	10:02	2.8	22:06	2.6
Harwich	8:56	3.1	21:24	3.2
Holyhead	7:43	4.6	20:14	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	3:15	7.1	15:42	7.3
Ilfracombe	2:56	7.0	15:24	7.2
King's Lynn	3:38	4.8	16:06	5.1
Leith	11:49	4.6	-	-

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	8:23	7.8	20:53	7.7
London Bridge	10:45	5.6	23:10	5.9
Lowestoft	6:42	2.1	19:06	2.2
Margate	9:05	3.8	21:28	4.1
Milford Haven	3:17	5.3	15:45	5.4
Newquay	2:15	5.4	14:42	5.4
Oban	3:24	3.2	15:45	3.2
Penzance	1:44	4.4	14:11	4.4
Portland	3:52	1.3	16:20	1.3
Portsmouth	8:36	3.8	21:19	3.9
Shoreham	8:11	4.8	20:51	4.9
Southampton	8:02	3.8	20:46	3.8
Swansea	3:08	10.2	15:42	10.4
Tees	0:37	8.9	13:05	9.0
Walton-On-Naze	8:47	3.3	21:15	3.5

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Comedy US style
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12 1999

BT shares soar on back of Internet boom



Bonfield: plenty of things to do

By Raymond Snoddy

BT SHARES shot up by more than 10 per cent yesterday as the telecommunications company revealed a dramatic expansion of Internet use and the best growth in turnover since 1990.

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, said the Internet now accounted for 15 per cent of all local call minutes and the percentage had more than doubled since last year.

"This will probably go up to 25 per cent over the next year or so. It is the fastest growing part of the marketplace," said Sir Peter.

Internet calls helped to lift the inland telephone volume increase in the third quarter to 8 per cent compared with 6 per cent last time. Despite increasing competition, growth in international call volume accelerated to 9 per cent from 8 per cent, although price-cutting meant revenue was only steady.

BT also said it was fighting back against the cable industry and there had been a 36,000 net loss of lines in the quarter, compared with a 220,000 in the same period last year.

"More than 100,000 customers came back to BT in the third quarter and more than 280,000 in the nine months to December," Sir Peter said.

The results were ahead of market expectations and BT shares rose 101½p to £10.09½.

In the third quarter revenues rose by 14.7 per cent to £4.68 billion. In the nine months the rise was 11.7 per cent to £13.3 billion.

Third-quarter profits dropped to £858 million before tax from £1 billion but that was almost entirely due to the payment of $465 million (£287 million) in the third quarter last year after the break-up of BT's proposed merger with MCI. Over the nine months pre-tax profits rose from £2.58 billion to £3.45 billion. Third-quarter earnings were 9.3p a share, making 25.6p for the nine months.

Sir Peter ruled out either a share buyback or an exceptional distribution to shareholders even though BT has gearing of just 6 per cent.

"We are not under any shareholder pressure. This is a dynamic, expanding industry and there are plenty of things to do," said Sir Peter. They include more opportunities in Japan, South-East Asia and the Indian sub-continent.

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Business Today

Upwardly mobile

Telecoms firms ready for £2bn auction of new phone licences

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5898.5	(+118.3)
Yield	2.73%	
FTSE All Share	2711.71	(+46.55)
Nikkei	13952.40	(−49.74)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9250.69	(+73.38)*
S&P Composite	1242.23	(+18.68)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	98[illegible]*	(98[illegible])
Yield	5.38%*	(5.36%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	118.51	(118.53)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6258*	(1.6258)
London:		
$	1.6255	(1.6290)
€	1.4388	(1.4388)
SFr	3.0005	(2.2972)
Yen	185.79	(186.71)
£ index	99.9	(100.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1308*	(1.1332)
SFr	1.4155*	(1.4086)
Yen	114.68*	(114.47)
$ index	104.9	(104.9)

Tokyo close Yen 115.29

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$10.65	(n/a)

GOLD

London close	$287.95	($287.75)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Worst result for Shell in a century

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

SHELL produced the worst results in its century-long history yesterday, reporting a 95 per cent fall in net income, with its chairman admitting that his job is now on the line after the oil group allowed its competitors to overtake it.

Maarten van den Bergh, managing director of Royal Dutch/Shell, reported net income for 1998 of just $350 million (£211 million) and a fourth-quarter loss of $3.7 billion and $4.4 billion in special charges. Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said that a 53 per cent decline in fourth-quarter net income, before special items, to $818 million was worse than results reported recently by US rivals. He said: "What is inescapable is that we have allowed the competition to overtake us."

But while he said there was a new determination within Shell. Mr Moody-Stuart indicated the pressure is growing on his position. "If we produce lousy results all this year, people will be hunting for my head," he said.

Despite the collapse in earnings, Mr Moody-Stuart said the company would continue to grow its dividend which is up 3 per cent to 13.5p for Shell Transport investors. "The group is not under financial strain. We generate cash at a prodigious rate, around $15 billion per year, 2½ times greater than the dividends paid."

The Anglo-Dutch company was besieged on all fronts last year with a collapse in oil prices and chemical and refining margins. Mr Moody-Stuart painted a bleak picture of the outlook. He said: "We think $10 oil will continue for some time."

Referring to the squeeze on investment in exploration, he pointed out that no significant uplift was in sight. "The effect of deferred investment has been to prevent the oil price from falling further." He said that Shell's exploration budget has been cut from $1.5 billion to less than a $1 billion with $1.7 billion of capital expenditure on hold pending improvement in conditions.

Tempus 30

However, he insisted that Shell was well placed to survive with low oil prices: "What you need at $10 is access to low-cost oil. We have very substantial reserves in Nigera and we are working on access to the Middle East."

Oil products was the only sector to improve, with a 54 per cent gain in the fourth quarter mainly through the benefits of European restructuring.

Shell's fourth-quarter net income loss included $4.4 billion of special charges relating to asset writedowns and redundancies highlighted in December when the company said it would sell 40 per cent of its chemical assets. Mr Moody-Stuart indicated that about half of the $4 billion plus writedowns were attributable to Shell Oil, the group's US arm. These include a $646 million writedown of Tejas Gas, acquired a year ago, and $1.6 billion relating to sale and restructuring of Aera, the Californian joint venture and Altura, a Texas/New Mexico business, both onshore US production assets. Shell Oil has always jealously guarded its corporate independence despite losing its separate US share listing in 1984. However, Mr Moody-Stuart said there were no plans for a more complete integration of Shell Oil.

Rioting and communal violence in Nigeria prevented Shell from increasing oil output last year but the company is still forging ahead with plans to invest $8.5 billion in the African state. A decision is expected shortly on a multibillion-dollar expansion of its liquefied natural gas project. Shell's dependence on cheap Nigerian hydrocarbons will increase sharply over the next decade as production growth slows in the higher cost North Sea and US fields.

Shell's chemical business suffered a 50 per cent collapse in profit last year to $452 million, with a severe decline in cracker margins and polypropylene margins. The company is selling a $2 billion half-share in its Montell polypropylene business, acquired about a year ago.

EPS / ANP / TOUSSAINT KLUSTERS



Maarten van den Bergh yesterday announcing the profits fall

Barclays boosted by arrival of US banker

By Caroline Merrell

BARCLAYS shares rose by 5 per cent yesterday as the City welcomed the appointment of Mike O'Neill, an American banker, to succeed Martin Taylor, who left abruptly at the end of last year.

The appointment ended two months of uncertainty at Barclays. The share price has been largely static since Mr Taylor's departure.

Mr O'Neill, unknown in the UK, has a history of leading corporate restructuring at banks in the US. Most recently he was involved in the £80 billion merger between Nationsbank and Bank of America, where he was in charge of "wealth management".

He joins on a starting salary of more than £2 million, excluding share options. He will also benefit from £5 million of Barclays shares if he stays with the bank for three years.

Mr O'Neill said that it was unlikely that he would take any significant decisions at the bank for six months because he wanted to get to know the business first. He officially joins the bank on March 26. He refused to rule out the disposal of Barclays Capital, the bank's troubled investment banking subsidiary, but claimed that it could have a role in the bank.

Analysts also welcomed the appointment, with many believing that an internal candidate would not bring about the changes that are needed.

Sir Peter Middleton, group chief executive, said: "We considered around 20 candidates in total. All the executives were considered seriously. They have huge jobs to do, they have all been in their jobs for less than a year." Mr O'Neill was finally chosen from a shortlist of four candidates.

Mr O'Neill said that he saw the UK banking market following the US, with a decline in business transacted through high street branches and increasing emphasis on PC banking and banking over the Internet. He said: "I am joining a strong management team and together I am sure we will be able to build on the group's existing strengths."

Sir Peter said he did not believe that Mr O'Neill's appointment would lead to any immediate high level departures at the bank. He said that the bank was continuing to search for a finance director. Mr O'Neill is to be involved in the final selection for the post. Sir Peter said: "Throughout his career Mike O'Neill has demonstrated his ability to improve the performance and increase the value of complex institutions."

Barclays refused to reveal the size of Mr Taylor's severence package from the bank. A spokeswoman said that it would be shown in the bank's report and accounts, which will be published after the results are revealed next week.

Commentary, page 29
Profile, page 31

EDS announces £10bn MCI deal

From Andrew Butcher in New York

DICK BROWN, the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless, yesterday lived up to expectations of big changes at his new company, America's Electronic Data Systems, when he announced a $17 billion (£10 billion) deal with MCI WorldCom.

The alliance with MCI, one of America's biggest telecoms companies, is Mr Brown's first big deal since arriving last month at EDS, the computer services company founded in 1962 by the American billionaire Ross Perot.

The core of the deal is the $1.65 billion purchase by EDS of MCI Systemhouse, which specialises in running other company's computers, but the agreement is far broader. EDS and MCI will swap computer services and telecommunication outsourcing contracts, allowing both companies to concentrate on areas in which they have expertise.

MCI will pay EDS up to $7 billion to run its computer and software systems through to 2010. In return, EDS will pay MCI WorldCom as much as $8.5 billion for phone services over the same period. The deal also involves the two companies swapping up to 13,000 staff in the US and Canada.

Since Mr Brown's appointment to EDS was announced in December, the company's shares have risen more than 20 per cent.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

☐ **THE National Health Service is too important to be left in the hands of politicians and doctors so *The Times* has asked top business people to come to the rescue. How can the NHS reconcile ever-increasing customer demands with a limited budget? Every day next week in Business News, business leaders will give their prescriptions for how the NHS can be reformed. They include Sir David Barnes, of AstraZeneca, Sir Richard Sykes, of Glaxo Wellcome and Greg Dyke, of Pearson TV. Their radical thoughts will take the debate on the reform of the NHS to a new level. Health Secretary Frank Dobson should be paying attention.**

Greenspan urges US bank reform

By Saeed Shah

ALAN GREENSPAN, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, yesterday set himself on a collision course with the Clinton Administration by reaffirming his support for legislation to revamp American financial services laws that he sees as being outdated.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Banking Committee, Mr Greenspan said that it was crucial to overhaul Depression-era laws that prohibit banks, brokerage firms and insurance companies from entering each other's business.

The legal barriers between different sectors of the financial services industry have put the merger of Citibank and Travelers Group on hold.

"Unless soon repealed, the archaic statutory barriers to efficiency could undermine the competitiveness of American financial institutions," Mr Greenspan said, adding that changing the laws would greatly benefit consumers.

Mr Greenspan said that change was necessary because of the proliferation of new financial products that have increasingly combined the characteristics of banking, insurance and securities products into single financial instruments.

The Treasury fears that the proposed legislation will weaken its regulatory authority.

Lonrho chiefs' bonus for flawed demerger

By Jason Nissé

FIVE directors of Lonrho, the mining group planning to rename itself Lonmin, are sharing bonus payments of almost £300,000 for work on the demerger of Lonrho Africa last year, the latest accounts reveal.

The demerger has not been wholly successful, with Lonrho Africa shares plunging after their listing and the company facing an attempt to oust its chairman and two of its directors.

One of those directors, Stephen Walls, was given a £70,000 bonus for his work on the demerger, despite being only a non-executive director. He was criticised earlier this week for working on a possible bid for Servisair while also being a non-executive director.

The largest beneficiary of the bonus payments was Nick Morrell, Lonrho's chief executive. He received £165,000, taking his total package to £630,000, though some of this bonus was also related to the sale of Princess Hotels. Sir John Craven, Lonrho's chairman, was given a bonus of £30,000.

The accounts, for the year to September 31 1998, also reveal that Terrence Wilkinson, the head of mining, was paid £72,000 in lieu of holidays.

Lycos bid war looms as Diller is rebuffed

From Andrew Butcher in New York

BARRY DILLER, the entertainment and home shopping mogul, has run into trouble in his attempt to expand his shopping empire to the Internet.

CMGI, the biggest shareholder in Lycos, the Internet search directory, last night rejected a $20 billion (£12.4 billion) merger bid by Mr Diller's USA Networks. The prospect of a bid battle sent Lycos shares up 20 per cent.

Mr Diller plans to combine his Home Shopping Network and telephone ticket seller Ticketmaster in a merger with Lycos. The combined company would have had revenues of $1.5 billion in 1998.

Lycos shareholders would then own 30 per cent of the new company. But CMGI, which holds 20 per cent of Lycos, argues Lycos shareholders will get only a modest premium in the merger, despite the recent buying frenzy in Internet stocks.

Mr Diller, 57, who went from working the mailroom of a Hollywood talent agency to heading a movie studio and a TV network, is a legendary figure in US media circles, who is leading the struggle to unite TV with the Internet.

Work directive poised to keep lawyers busy

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE WRANGLE over whether paperboys and papergirls will get paid for holidays under the European Working Time Directive is tricky for Ian McCartney, the Industry Minister, whose brief includes employment. He began his political life at 14 leading a paperboys' pay strike in Glasgow.

Now his boss, Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, is determined that paperboys should not be paid for holidays as per the directive.

The seemingly innocuous paperboy/girl has hit a nerve as employers start to wrestle with the directive, which came into force in October. Newsagents seeking guidance from the DTI were told that paper deliverers are covered if aged over 17. If younger, they are not classed as workers.

The teenage deliverers' dilemma is the tip of a potential iceberg. The directive has been branded unclear and a recipe for test-case proliferation as employers try to work out the parameters of the law.

The directive limits the working week to 48 hours and sets standards for employment, such as a right to holidays. All workers now have the right to three weeks of holiday, rising to four next year. This applies to part-time workers on a pro rata basis regardless of how many hours they do, if they have worked for their employer for 13 weeks. So, the directive's scope could be huge, taking in part-time shelf stackers in supermarkets, home and office cleaners and stand-in staff.

A judicial review is already looming: if successful, the challenge will broaden the application even further. The holidays issue is but one. There is the concept of working time. Does it include travelling to work or time spent at business lunches? Are people covered if working abroad for a British firm?

These are the first shots in an exercise that will see many lawyers working way over the maximum working week.

Increasing numbers are poor in retirement

By Paula Hawkins

THE number of people facing hardship in retirement has risen sharply, warns a report out today. The Fleming Pension Map of Britain estimates that 13 million people will face hardship after their working days end. This compares with ten million in 1996.

The study conducted by Flemings Investment Trust Services shows that women are most likely to experience financial difficulties when they retire because they are more likely to take career breaks and because they live longer. Two years ago 24 per cent of working women would have faced poverty in retirement. That figure has now risen to 29 per cent.

The Flemings report also shows that men are worse off in retirement than they used to be. The percentage of men who would live in comfort in retirement fell from 23 per cent in 1997 to 17 per cent in 1999, while the proportion who would retire below the poverty line (defined by Flemings as a pension which represents less than 25 per cent of final salary) rose from 10 per cent to 16 per cent.

The deterioration in the expected level of provision for men is partly explained by the fact that people are changing jobs more frequently. This is one problem that the Government's Green Paper sought to tackle with its proposals for stakeholder pensions.

While Flemings welcomed the plans, saying that the reforms "will impact on the lowest paid and those who have suffered from career breaks", it gave warning that "for some, it will only improve their position slightly, especially if they are close to retirement".

The report concludes that the number of people taking out pension schemes to supplement the State's provision is not rising quickly enough. "Despite several decades of encouragement of occupational pension schemes, the coverage of schemes has risen only modestly," the report states.

The report points out that the Government's plans "focus on the employed and offer little for the self-employed", another group which faces most hardship in retirement. While 44 per cent of employees are not making sufficient contributions for their future, 64 per cent of self-employed people are not putting away enough for their retirement.

Ian Overgage, marketing manager at Flemings, said: "As interest rates are still falling, the number of older people who will not have sufficient income in their retirement will rise."

PETER TRIEVNOR



Paul Drayson says PowderJect intends to develop its device for conventional vaccines

PowderJect shares leap 23% after $100m deal

By Paul Durman

POWDERJECT Pharmaceuticals has confirmed its position in the vanguard of Britain's drug development industry with a $100 million (£62 million) deal with Ares-Serono, the Swiss leader in infertility treatment.

Shares in the Oxford company, developer of a device to give drug injections without using needles, jumped 23 per cent to a new high of 870p, valuing the company at £560 million. This was in spite of its decision to raise £52 million with a placing and open offer of shares at 670p.

Ares-Serono hopes to use the PowderJect device to deliver five undisclosed proteins being developed as therapies in the fields of reproductive health and immunology.

Paul Drayson, PowderJect's chairman and chief executive, said the £52 million would allow the firm to develop its device for conventional vaccines for influenza, hepatitis B and diptheria/tetanus.

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PowderJect's worrier, page 31

PPP faces inquiry over referrals

By Jason Nissé

PPP, the healthcare group owned by GRE, is facing an Office of Fair Trading investigation after 20 cardiologists wrote complaining that they be allowed to refer patients to the new £45 million Heart Hospital in Harley Street.

The consultants are claiming that PPP is restricting their choice in a bid to boost usage of PPP's own four Central London hospitals, the Wellington, Harley Street Clinic, Princess Grace and Portland. The cardiologists say that other leading health insurers, such as BUPA and Norwich Union, are happy to pay for patients to be referred to the Heart Hospital.

The new hospital has been developed by Parkway Group Healthcare of Singapore. Its management board is chaired by Sir Richard Needham, the former Conservative minister, who said yesterday that PPP is trying to block competition because there is an excess of cardiology beds in London.

PPP denies it is restricting competition and said it is not including the Heart Hospital in its list of recommended hospitals because of the limited service it provides.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Caborn tightens planning process

OUT-OF-TOWN retailers will face a tougher battle to open new stores after the Government yesterday tightened planning guidelines. The move by Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions and Planning, forces local authorities to be more rigorous in ensuring that retailers prove they have looked at all available sites in town before they try to build new shops out of town. Retailers must also prove a need for the new outlet to be built. Extensions to existing sites will also have to be treated as new planning applications, Mr Caborn said in a parliamentary answer to Alan Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull and West Hessle. That means retailers will not be able to secure permission for one site and then hope to bolt on extra capacity. Many large out-of-town retailers have built large extensions to existing stores in order to dodge prohibitive planning policy.

Mr Caborn said the extra guidelines were intended to strengthen existing policy following recent litigation from would-be developers. He added that planning policy "aims to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of our existing town centres by focusing new investment, particularly for retail and leisure uses within city, town and district centres".

EU's gloomy forecast

EUROPE'S Monetary Affairs Commissioner yesterday said that the EU's forecast for European economic growth this year would probably be revised down at the end of March. Yves-Thibault de Silguy added that the extent of the downward revision to the forecast would depend on the level of confidence among European consumers. In October, the European Commission predicted 1999 growth for the European Union as a whole at 2.4 per cent and at 2.6 per cent for the 11 countries in the eurozone. The next forecast is due on March 30.

Setback for duty-free

THE campaign to keep duty-free shopping alive was dealt a fresh blow yesterday as it emerged that an internal European Commission report has rejected pleas to extend the system for another five years. A leaked version of the report circulating around Brussels describes Britain's case for extending the duty-free system on the grounds of protecting jobs as "extremely weak". It also warns that any delay in scrapping duty-free shopping could leave the EU open to legal challenge from retailers. The report will be presented to European finance ministers on March 15, before they vote on whether to extend the system.

Wace transformation

WACE, the company which is set to fall into the hands of Schawk, the white knight from the US, after fighting off the unwelcome attentions of Photobition, said the restructuring of the company from a printing company into a graphic imaging business has been a success. The company yesterday announced its full-year results for 1998, booking a loss of £40 million against a £70 million loss last year — a loss per share of 56.4p. Schawk's agreed offer values the company at 70p a share. Derek Ashley, chief executive, said: "The outlook is positive for the group, but there is still work to be done."

Fraud director jailed

A FORMER personnel director of Veba, Germany's fourth-largest industrial company, was yesterday jailed for 33 months for defrauding it of DM240,000 (£85,714). Heinz Gentz, 67, was tried on four counts, including charges that he had work done on his private swimming pool and garden which he had paid by the company or its insurers, using false invoices. Gentz faces a second trial on charges that in 1994 he bought off the owner of a bathroom equipment and plumbing firm, who knew about the false invoices, by having Veba buy his company for far more than its market value.

Sytner buys Cooper

SYTNER GROUP, the car dealership chain chaired by Frank Sytner, the former British touring car champion, has bought the Cooper in the City BMW dealership from Inchcape for up to £2.1 million. Sytner, which is already the UK's largest seller of BMWs, is paying £715,000 immediately, with £1.3 million in deferred payments. It plans to relocate Cooper, though not too far from its current site in the north of the City of London.

ABB seeks secondary listing of new shares

ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish engineering group, hopes to catapult itself into the ranks of Europe's most popular companies by seeking a secondary listing of its new shares on the London Stock Exchange (Paul Armstrong writes).

The move is seen as a precursor to a Wall Street listing. ABB, which is capitalised at about $20 billion (£12 billion), aims to clean up its four different share structures.

Goran Lindahl, the ABB president, said that the sweeping changes were aimed at increasing the liquidity of ABB shares, raising the prospect of the company being included in leading European indices.

Reitzle is tipped for Ford job

WOLFGANG REITZLE, the BMW executive ousted last week, is believed to be ready to join Ford, the US car manufacturer (Sigrid Aufterbeck writes).

Herr Reitzle is tipped to become Ford's head of development in Europe, responsible for the Aston Martin, Jaguar and Volvo brands.

Both Ford and BMW declined to comment yesterday. On Wednesday Jac Nasser, Ford's chief executive, said at the Chicago Auto Show he did not want to comment while Herr Reitzle was still negotiating terms of his departure from BMW. "I think Wolfgang is a tremendous executive and leader," Mr Nasser said.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.60	2.42
Austria Sch	20.82	19.16
Belgium Fr	61.28	56.52
Canada $	2.540	2.352
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8790	0.8075
Denmark Kr	11.30	10.41
Egypt	5.74	5.13
Finland Mkk	9.11	8.36
France Fr	9.92	9.14
Germany Dm	2.979	2.737
Greece Dr	490	451
Hong Kong $	13.42	12.22
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	17748	12748
Ireland Pt	1.1886	1.0996
Israel Shk	6.97	6.31
Italy Lira	2963	2726
Japan Yen	200.74	183.21
Malta	0.662	0.603
Netherlands Gld	3.364	3.069
New Zealand $	3.08	2.84
Norway Kr	13.03	12.09
Portugal Esc	301.28	279.25
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.54
Spain Pta	251.10	232.31
Sweden Kr	13.62	12.52
Switzerland Fr	2.456	2.238
Turkey Lira	568769	532964
USA $	1.732	1.589

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Ex-marine must battle for change

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

No wonder Barclays had to concentrate its search for a new chief executive in the United States. There would be few UK contenders able to put up £5 million to secure themselves a job. This arrangement gives a whole new meaning to the concept of signing-on fees.

But Michael O'Neill does boast other qualifications for the role apart from a healthy bank balance. He has practical experience in retail banking and asset management and, judging by the entrenched opposition that Martin Taylor encountered, his experiences working with the Marines intelligence service during the Vietnam war will also be useful.

Mr O'Neill is being hailed as someone who can engineer change without occasioning animosity. If he could do that, then he probably deserves his salary package and more. But a quick recce of the organisation may persuade him that taking out, at an early stage, a few of the potential obstacles to change would be a wise move. Mr Taylor spent too long trying to persuade people within the bank to work with him rather than against him.

The first task awaiting Mr O'Neill is to appoint a finance director with whom he sees eye to eye. His predecessor interviewed hordes of potential candidates but found none suitable. The City would be reassured if the incoming American were able to settle on someone who was already a known and respected figure in UK corporate life, if not necessarily in banking. Perhaps the signing-on fee could be waived to get the right person.

Mr O'Neill does not look like the sort of person who will be bounced into taking any premature decisions on the structure of the group, despite murmurs from the City that institutional investors would like to see the retail bank demerged from what remains of Barclays' foray into investment banking. Mr Taylor could make a fine intellectual case for the split, but the reality is more blurred. The treasury operations, for instance, are ravelled together, to the mutual benefit of both sides.

Despite its agonies of late, stumbling over almost every available banking banana skin around the world, Barclays remains one of Britain's leading retail banks, and it is on that which Mr O'Neill can build. If he can keep the two internal candidates for the chief executive's job on side, it will be to his advantage. They have presumably noted that he only has to stay three years to trigger his jackpot payout so, at least for one of them, stardom may yet be possible.

They will, however, have to keep on the right side of someone other than Mr O'Neill. The formidable Sir Peter Middleton now moves into the chairman's seat at Barclays. The former Treasury mandarin and BZW chairman will be rather more pro-active than the hapless Andrew Buxton.

Even Sir Peter's admirers refer to him as Machiavellian. After a few months as acting chief executive of Barclays, he will have clear views on how the job should be done.

Messing up the jobs market

Forget the millennium bug just for a moment. The bugs in the European Working Time Directive are already appearing four months after the Brussels-inspired reform first came into effect.

The fuss over paid holidays for paperboys and papergirls is delightfully nonsensical, unless you happen to be one of those who may lose their part-time job as a result. The bigger impact is likely to be felt in encouraging more people to work for agencies or as freelance self-employed.

Giving more rights to those who have least is certainly a worthy cause but the implications have not been fully thought through. If agency or casual work garners the same perks as the once sought-after staff job, at higher rates of pay, the National Health Service will soon find itself needing even more agency nurses, boosting its pay bill for no good reason.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that holiday rights, for instance, are giving agencies a chance to jack up their charging rates. There are shortages to exploit in schools as well as hospitals.

At least ministers can claim that these principles were imposed by the EU. There would be no excuse for failing to work through the detailed application of the minimum wage or of the complex provisions of the Fairness at Work Bill. These are generated at home, after long gestation through Labour's policy development process, the election manifesto and long preparation in Whitehall.

The minimum wage is already in danger of killing off the au pair and halting the growth of home childcare. These effects may not have been intended.

Fairness at Work aims to take the protection of part-time and agency workers much further than the Brussels directive. Have ministers worked out the implications of promoting these ways of working?

For private employers, enhanced rights for maternity and paternity leave are causing consternation in some quarters, not least rights to take extended additional unpaid leave. People on low incomes cannot afford to take long unpaid leave. Those affected are likely to be key senior employees who can only be replaced at enormous short-term cost. The smaller the employer covered by the law, the harsher the impact of these seemingly civilised provisions.

Even new Labour understandably feels it has obligations to act fast in this area. Like the Tories, however, it would do better to move one step at a time and digest the consequences.

To put things in perspective, Sudan's Government finally started to admit yesterday that slavery is rife and uncontrolled there.

Towns with a hard centre

The Minister for the Regions and Planning, Richard Caborn, has made no secret of his distaste for out-of-town development. Consumers may like to hop in their cars and head for the retail parks and regional shopping centres but Mr Caborn wants to direct them right back into town centres. Now he has announced a further toughening of the planning regime aimed at ensuring that he gets his way.

The onus is now on retailers to prove that they have looked at all available sites in town, and found nothing to suit, before any out-of-town development can be contemplated. Since, over time, the focus of any town centre tends to move, there are few that do not have a supply of empty retail space, dejected, covered in fly-posters and long deserted by shoppers. If Mr Caborn hopes that retailers will be persuaded to forsake the retail parks to recolonise these barren areas, he is doomed to disappointment. Unless, that is, he can persuade local authorities to back his crusade with cash and plenty of car parks. Only if considerable investment is channeled back into town centres will the retailers follow.

In the meantime, those schemes that won planning permission in the pre-Caborn days can only benefit from his clampdown. He will succeed in doing for retail property what the Barber ban did for offices. The investors who have just taken stakes in Bluewater Park must be very grateful to the Minister. The development opens its doors next month and customers will love it.

The wages of sin

RESEARCH by Flemings produces some frightening statistics on the millions for whom retirement will bring poverty. The Government knows but, even allowing for the stakeholder pension and the birth of Lisa, it is avoiding the real issue. Unless the state pension rises or people are compelled to save more, millions of elderly people will live in poverty. We hear much of those who were persuaded to opt out of occupational schemes and put their money into private pensions. Given the choice, however, many took their money out of occupational schemes — and spent it.

Airtours on lookout for acquisitions

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

AIRTOURS, the travel group that has built up a £500 million cash pile, is continuing to look for acquisitions in Europe and North America and sees scope for further consolidation in the UK.

However, Harry Coe, managing director, refused to comment on recent speculation about a possible link between Airtours and Thomson Travel. Airtours recently raised £300 million through a consolidated bond issue, £50 million more than it initially expected. Altogether it has about £500 million in cash and almost no debt on its balance sheet.

Mr Coe said that UK bookings for the summer were 5 per cent ahead of last year, which the company believes is ahead of the market, which is more or less flat. For next winter, bookings are up 20 per cent, driven by demand for holidays over the millennium. Despite higher prices, long-haul flights and holidays in the Canaries are proving particularly popular.

In Scandinavia, where the company went through a rough patch last year, bookings for next winter are 10 per cent ahead. However, Canada reported increased losses as a result of overcapacity. The company reported improved trading at its US businesses. However, total bookings for this winter are down 7 per cent from last year in North America due to cuts in capacity.

In the first quarter, ending December 31, the company made a seasonal pre-tax loss of £19.4 million (£17.3 million loss), despite a 40 per cent increase in turnover to £708 million, mainly reflecting acquisitions in Scandinavia. The increased loss was attributed to the company's expansion of its tour operating activities.

The UK companies acquired last year, Direct Holidays, Bridge Travel Group, Cresta Holidays and Panorama Holidays, all made winter losses, as expected. The existing businesses all saw improved results.

Quarterly loss for Seagram

By OUR CITY STAFF

SEAGRAM, the drinks and entertainment company, has reported a $226 million (£139.5 million) second-quarter loss after taking a $405 million pre-tax charge on its $10.4 billion acquisition of PolyGram, the music and film group. Revenues were $3.3 billion, against $3 billion a year earlier.

Before the restructuring charge, Seagram's net income from continuing operations was $18 million, against $58 million a year earlier, excluding a charge on wine and spirits operations in Asia.

The Universal Filmed Entertainment subsidiary, which now includes PolyGram, had losses of $63 million, against a $98 million profit, as its films struggled at the box office. Edgar Bronfman, Seagram president, said he was disappointed by the film group's performance, but said that it had focused on "minimising risk".

Overhaul at Scottish Eastern

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SCOTTISH Eastern, the £800 million investment trust, has issued radical reconstruction proposals that could pave the way for a fairer treatment of shareholders in the moribund £60 billion trust sector.

After months of secret negotiations with institutional investors and private client stockbrokers, Sir John Kemp-Welch, its chairman and former head of the Stock Exchange, announced that the trust would go into voluntary liquidation, ending its 75-year history. In its demise, however, it will spawn four new investment funds.

The first of these, the Martin Currie Portfolio Investment Trust, will be a "son-of Scottish Eastern" that will follow the same investment objectives and is designed to appeal to the army of private shareholders who own up to 40 per cent of Scottish Eastern.

Arnault makes Gucci hold special meeting

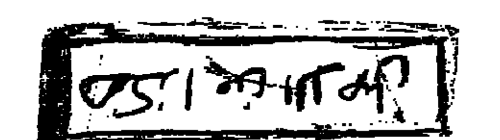
By FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, is forcing Gucci to hold a special shareholder meeting so he can put one of his colleagues on to the board of the Italian fashion house.

M Arnault, who controls 34.4 per cent of Gucci shares, has used his recently built stake to requisition the meeting. He wants to vote Umberto Guid, a former LVMH director, on to Gucci's supervisory board within the next six weeks, refusing to wait for Gucci's next shareholder meeting. City analysts believe that the move could sour relationships between LVMH and Gucci, possibly leading to a hostile takeover bid for Gucci.

Since LVMH disclosed its interest in Gucci last month, M Arnault has emphasised his admiration for the company and for Tom Ford, its head of design. It is understood that M Arnault wants to sell Gucci clothes through his company's DFS chain of luxury shopping malls. He could achieve this without a full takeover.

LVMH, owner of Christian Dior, is capitalised at €18.7 billion (£26.9 billion) and Gucci at $4.08 billion (£2.51 billion).





Investors return to end six-day losing streak

INVESTORS were back on song with share prices staging a comeback yesterday ending six days of consecutive falls.

A much-needed revival on Wall Street, encouraged by some bullish comments on the US economy from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, enabled London to end on a high note. The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a rise of 118.3 to 5,888.5 as turnover topped 1.2 billion shares. The FTSE 250 index also put on 29.4 to 5,187.8.

Share prices had already begun to build up a full head of steam, fuelled by better than expected results from **British Telecom**. It was the best performer among the top 100 with a leap of 101½p, or 11 per cent, to £10.09½ — just 2p below its record high.

Elsewhere in the telecom sector, **Orange** added 31p to 847p, on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Merrill Lynch, the broker. Rival **Vodafone** was also in demand climbing 29½p to £10.93½ cheered by some bullish comments from Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, which rates the shares a "buy".

The decision of Federal-Mogul to pull out of the bidding left **LucasVarity** down 9p at 279½p. This now leaves the way open for rival US automotive group TRW to proceed with its offer of £4 billion.

Lloyds TSB was steady ahead of results later today with the price adding 26½p at 784½p. Pre-tax profits are forecast to come in 6 per cent lower at just less than £3 billion.

Alliance & Leicester rose 40p to 802p. **Abbey National** 72p to £12.13 and **Woolwich** 12½p to 334½p as HSBC Securities, the broker, labelled them a "trading buy". It is also keen on **Halifax**, up 27p to 736p, along with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson which has raised its recommendation from "hold" to "add".

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, continued to make headway with a rise of 34p to 508½p on the back of this week's better than expected subscriber numbers for its digital service. BT Alex Brown, the broker, rates the shares a "strong buy" and has raised its target price to 585p.

However, bearish comments from BT Alex Brown left **Allied Domecq** 7½p lower at 451p. Not only are fundamental prospects deteriorating, but the management has only limited solutions with which to unlock value. The only option left open to the management would be a share buyback.



Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied Domecq, saw shares fall 7½p to 451p on the back of bearish broker sentiment

Bass fell 20½p to 786½p and **Whitbread** 37½p to 869p amid fresh claims that both brewers are about to hit the takeover trail. Bass is being tipped as the likely suitor for Michael Grade's **First Leisure**, down 4½p at 222p, while **Vaux Group**, 3p easier at 298½p, is seen as Whitbread's target.

Inn Business was unchanged at 60p, still awaiting the terms of a bid approach made in January, from rival **Enterprise Inns**, steady at 378½p. Enterprise is believed to have put a package of 170 pubs up for sale, proceeds of which would help to fund a bid for Inn Business.

Speculative buying was behind the rise of 10p to 181½p in **SIG**. A total of 634,557 shares changed hands in the builder's merchant in what is traditionally a thin market. The shares have slumped from the 275½p level since last July.

The speculators were also chasing **BICC** higher. The old takeover favourite rose 4½p to 85½p on claims that a bid may be just round the corner.

BPB Industries shaded ½p to 233½p after buying back two million of its own shares at 230p. **Tomkins** eased 3½p to 234½p after buying back 6.32 million shares at prices ranging from 231p to 237p.

Carpetright, the retailer headed by Lord Harris, was 2½p better at 295p. Sir Harry Djanogly, a director, has acquired 114,200 shares at 279p. He now holds 1.94 million shares, or 2.51 per cent.

The chairman of **Baldwins Industrial** has splashed out nearly £15,000 topping up his holding. Richard Baldwin has bought 10,000 shares at 148p taking his holding to 8.08 million, or 27 per cent. The price responded with a rise of 7½p to 153½p.

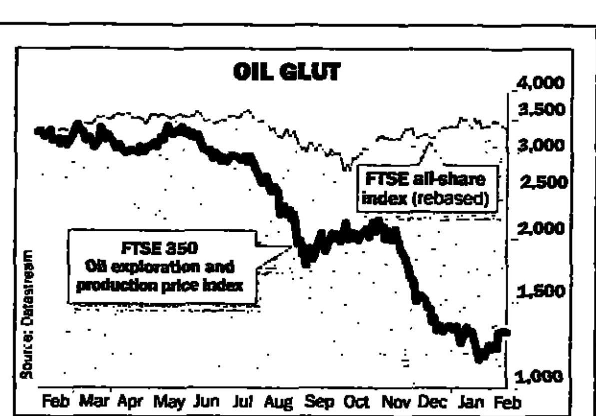
Superframe was a touch firmer at 21½p after Michael Montague, chairman, picked up 50,000 shares at 21p taking his total holding to 110,000, or 1.38 per cent.

Calluna firmed 2½p to 29¾p amid claims that US sales of its Hardwall anti-virus system for computers were picking up.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market failed to recover early losses despite a late rally. The worst falls were seen among longer-dated issues while shorts were encouraged by prospects for further rate cuts following gloomy comments by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 2p cheaper at £118.51 as 23,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 ended 32p down at £150.16, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 4p at £107.53.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares rebounded as the attractive prices of technology and financial stocks lured the bulls back. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 73.38 points to 9,250.69.



THE loss of 400 jobs at BP Amoco this week and another drop in profits recorded at Shell gives some idea of the depth of the crisis facing the oil industry.

Industry analysts take the view that there is little sign of recovery and that further consolidation may be needed before the glut of oil overhanging the market can be cleared.

Oil shares reflected this concerns yesterday. Shell retreated 6½p to 332½p, BP 3½p to 862½p, Lasmo 3½p to 108½p, while its proposed merger partner Enterprise Oil also slipped 7¼p to 242¼p. Even Monument Oil & Gas, which has been touted as a potential target for Enterprise should the talks with Lasmo breakdown fell 3¼p to 39¼p.

Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, warns that until the current overhang in inventories is brought down, oil prices will remain weak. It believes that Opec must cut production by a further one million barrels a day at its meeting in Vienna next month.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9250.69 (+73.38)
S&P Composite 1242.23 (+18.68)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 13952.40 (+49.74)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9146.80 (+70.47)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 518.07 (+5.58)

Sydney:
AO 2867.0 (+12.2)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4839.33 (+42.51)

Singapore:
Straits 1357.17 (+70.61)

Brussels:
BEL20 3353.20 (+24.47)

Paris:
CAC-40 4072.34 (+70.41)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1339.30 (+3.00)

London:
FT 30 3598.1 (+58.0)
FTSE 100 5888.5 (+118.3)
FTSE 250 5187.0 (+29.4)
FTSE 350 2803.4 (+49.9)
FTSE Eurotop 100 2703.05 (+39.35)
FTSE All-Share 2711.71 (+46.55)
FTSE Non Financials 2795.76 (+42.46)
FTSE Fixed Interest 158.60 (−0.09)
FTSE Govt Secs 115.63 (−0.11)
Bargains 73586
SEAQ Volume 1200.8m
US$ 1.6253 (−0.0035)
Euro 0.6950 (Same)
£:SDR 1.1748
Exchange Index 99.9 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI 164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX 162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100	...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88	...
Acorn Income Fund	101½	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	99	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	120	...
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	...
Gander Properties	7	...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	106½	...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98	...
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...
Yeoman II Equity Units	103	...
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5	...
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	97½	...
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	116¼	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ambient Media n/p (49)	¾	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Moss Bros	152½	+ 13½	+ 9.7
Internet Tech	143½	+ 12½	+ 9.5
Sytner	182½	+ 15	+ 8.9
JB Software Tech	250	+ 20	+ 8.6
Black (Peter)	273	+ 21½	+ 8.5
Davis Service	428	+ 33	+ 8.3
COLT Telecom	1133	+ 85	+ 8.1
BSkyB	508¾	+ 34	+ 7.1
Central Pacific	238	+ 15¾	+ 7.0
Warner Howrd	181½	+ 11½	+ 6.7
Airtours	441	+ 27	+ 6.5
Abbey Ntl	1213	+ 72	+ 6.3
Cable Wireless	824½	+ 49	+ 6.3
Barclays	1420	+ 74	+ 5.4
Britt Allcroft	356½	+ 18½	+ 5.4
Easynet	225	+ 11½	+ 5.3
Marsh McLn	3865⅝	+ 196⅞	+ 5.3
Anglo Am Plat	921⅞	+ 46⅞	+ 5.3
Alliance & Leic	802	+ 40	+ 5.2
McInerney	107½	+ 5	+ 4.8

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
De La Rue	227½	− 15	− 6.1
Smith & Neph	175	− 9	− 4.8
Whitbread	869	− 37½	− 4.1
Molins	120	− 5	− 4.0
Brit Amer Tob	588½	− 24½	− 3.9
Psion	802½	− 30	− 3.6
Indpt Energy	692½	− 25	− 3.4
Capita Group	640	− 21	− 3.1
Scot & New	704½	− 22	− 3.0
Enterprise	242¼	− 7½	− 3.0
Bowthorpe	409½	− 12½	− 2.9
Adam & Harvey	150	− 5	− 3.2
Br Vita	225	− 7	− 3.0

TEMPUS

Coming out of its Shell

SHELL OIL, the American arm of the Anglo-Dutch group, leads a charmed life. Shell Oil is to keep its corporate structure and head offices while the walls of its European counterparts are torn down in the name of efficiency. But if Mark Moody-Stuart, the chairman, is to bring off the kind of revolution at Shell that so transformed BP, then Shell Oil's special treatment needs to be rethought. If Shell's European baronies are to be pushed aside for the sake of better control, the American cousins should be treated likewise.

If Shell takes the firm grip required 1999 could be a turning point for the company and the shares that have performed so disappointingly for so long. But Big Oil can no longer pretend to be a growth investment standing alongside pharamcueticals and telecoms. It is, however, well placed to perform as a cost-cutting, cash generating, utility. Shell has huge reserves of low-cost oil and gas in Nigeria, Oman and The Netherlands that will enable it to pay its way, even in under $10 a barrel oil scenarios. Meanwhile, Shell also has large exposure downstream. Profits in refining and petrochemicals will, in theory, benefit from a prolonged period of cheap crude oil and gas.

BP has worked off almost all of its fat and bought some more in Amoco to carry on playing the cost-cutting game. But Shell is only just beginning, which presents investors with a promising long-term investment opportunity. Moreover, the downside is limited given the dividend strength. At 332½p the gross yield tops 5 per cent.

Shell has the assets; it just needs the imagination to make more of them. Buy on the assumption it does.

British Telecom

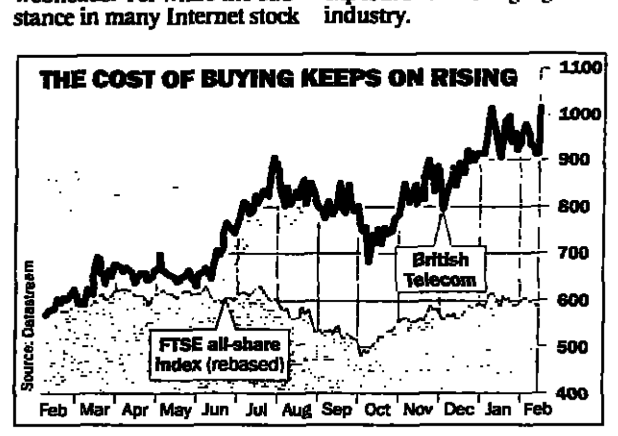
BRITISH TELECOM is also one of the few players which operates across the warterfront: in mobiles, fixed-line, voice and data transmission. This gives BT critical mass, but it also means that it is the easy target for upstart specialists who invade and exploit the more profitable niches.

BT's profit margins are under constant attack. In being so spread, BT runs the risk of playing second best to the arrivistes. It may also be left behind by newer ideas and newer technology, although last week's £5 billion affirmation of network investment intent shows that BT is responding to competitive threats.

But while BT may never be a superstellar performer, and its strategy appears confused at times, it has one most alluring attribute: it is handsomely profitable. In a stock market sector where making money is an optional activity, that is a boon.

BT played to the current stock market enthusiasm for Internet stocks yesterday, boasting about how much of its telephone line capacity is taken up connecting the rapidly enlarging constituency of webheads. Yet while the substance in many Internet stock stories does not bear close examination, BT clearly earns hard cash. Internet activity requires telephone line usage, and that brings BT revenue in a concrete, direct and understandable way.

Hold BT shares for steady and reliable but not necessarily exciting or market-beating exposure to this high growth industry.



PowderJect

POWDERJECT'S $100 million collaboration with an enthusiastic Ares-Serono proves, if proof were needed, that last year's $300 million deal with Glaxo Wellcome was not a one-off. More to the point, it shows that the British company's needle-free injection gun really is as exciting as it seems. With strong patents and good branding, PowderJect has the chance to capture a big slug of the sums spent on injectable drugs and vaccines.

This has not gone unnoticed. After yesterday's 23 per cent surge to 870p, the shares are now nearly five times the 185p flotation price of only 20 months ago.

Yet the first PowderJect product, carrying an anaesthetic, will not reach the market for another two years. The exuberance of the anticipation is creating some nervousness. Small wonder, since the PowderJect story so far bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the up phase in British Biotech and Biocompatibles. PowderJect is even using its strong share price to raise money, in this case £50 million.

But PowderJect's Paul Drayson deserves better than to be cynically tarred. For one thing, he could have raised his money at an even higher price if he had dealyed the fundraising exercise until after the Ares-Serono deal was known. Moreover, he shows little sign of hubris, is on the lookout for pitfalls and still owns 22 per cent of the company. PowderJect could be a great British success story. But the current share price is more than up with events.

Cookson

THE new broom at Cookson is making this industrial materials company look a lot more attractive. Under Stephen Howard there is a greater sense that the business is being run to maximise profitability rather than maximise the number of pies it has its fingers in. If the cost-cutting measures unveiled yesterday are successful in lowering the cost base by £14.5 million a year, it will put Cookson in with a chance of restoring its profitability to the levels of 1997 without much help from its tricky markets.

But while Cookson is shaping up internally, it remains vulnerable to external forces. Cookson's major customers — steel foundries and electronic circuitry fabricators such as producers of computer and mobile phone hardware — are not buoyant. Moreover, even if world GDP growth returns strongly Cookson will still find it hard to win business and maintain margins of profitablity.

The motivation to hold, or perhaps even buy, hangs on the safe-looking 8 per cent dividend yield.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA

Mar	907-905	May	1003 SLR
May	907-906	Jul	1010 SLR
Jul	923-910	Sep	1025 SLR
Sep	941-910	Dec	1051 SLR
Dec	[illegible]		
Mar	927-880	Volume	10387

ROBUSTA COFFEE; WHITE SUGAR (FOB); MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION — [illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) — CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	9.80	−0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	10.40	n/c
Brent 15 day (May)	10.55	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	12.00	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	12.15	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT); IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) GAS OIL; BRENT (6.00pm); LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — [illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	73.70	Mar	77.00
May	74.60	May	73.00
Jul	76.40	Sep	75.75
Sep	75.75	Nov	78.00
Nov	77.50	Jan	80.00
Volume	917	Volume	0

LIFFE POTATO; RUBBER; LIFFE BIFFEX — [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	118.45	118.65	118.15	118.51	34063
	Jun 99	119.10	119.45	119.06	119.41	657
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				116.56	0
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				103.14	0
	Jun 99				108.93	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	114.25	114.56	114.15	114.53	8514
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 99	129.47	129.52	128.95	129.37	958
	Jun 99	128.22	128.22	128.32	128.24	110
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.690	94.710	94.690	94.710	16902
	Jun 99	94.980	95.010	94.980	94.990	19258
	Sep 99	95.100	95.125	95.090	95.110	20861
Three Mth Euromark		N/A				
Three Mth Eurolira		N/A				
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.710	98.730	98.660	98.680	11825
	Jun 99	98.580	98.610	98.560	98.520	12155
Three Mth Euro	Apr 99				97.025	0
	Jun 99	97.040	97.075	97.035	97.065	5121
FTSE 100	Mar 99	5780.0	5948.0	5763.0	5902.0	24223
	Jun 99	5930.0	5930.0	5930.0	5926.5	45

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O'night high 7 Low 5½ Week fixed 5
Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:					
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps:	5	n/a	5½	5½	5½
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.90	4.92	5.10
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

[illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

[illegible]

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5382-1.5394
Canada	1.4883-1.4888
Denmark	6.5711-6.5751
Euro	1.1304-1.1312
Hong Kong	7.7486-7.7496
Japan	114.14-114.19
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.6395-7.6495
Singapore	1.6875-1.6885
Sweden	7.8810-7.8910
Switzerland	1.4132-1.4142

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6240-1.6340
Australia dollar	2.5010-2.5045
Bahrain dinar	0.6040-0.6182
Brazil real*	3.0725-3.0825
Cyprus pound	0.8235-0.8423
Euro	1.4375-1.4397
Finland markka	8.4548-8.5940
Greece drachma	456.75-467.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.5969-12.6063
India rupee	68.07-69.67
Indonesia rupiah	13733.0-14333.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4969
Malaysia ringgit	6.1773-6.1818
New Zealand dollar	2.9345-2.9416
Pakistan rupee	79.2500 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8350-5.9724
Singapore dollar	2.7432-2.7465
S Africa rand (com)	9.7540-9.9728
U A E dirham	5.8875-6.0261

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

[illegible]

Barclays banks on intelligence expert

City encouraged by outsider's arrival, says Caroline Merrell

Barclays' executive team will be pleased to know that Mike O'Neill, the man charged with the task of reversing the bank's flagging fortunes, never actually killed anyone in his stint as a US marine. Instead, Mr O'Neill prefered to serve out the Vietnam war in intelligence, from the relative safety of home territory. "I joined the intelligence service to avoid conscription," he explained.

Until yesterday, the 52-year-old was all but unknown in City banking circles, despite a 25-year career in the industry. He had spent 20 years with Continental Bank before overseeing its merger in 1994 with Bank of America, which he in turn was instrumental in merging with Nationsbank — an £80 billion deal to form BankAmerica, the largest bank in the US.

Banking analysts said yesterday that they were encouraged by Mr O'Neill's background in corporate restructuring and mergers and acquisitions. One said: "We are quite glad that they did not choose an insider, as that would mean that everything would carry on as it is."

Mr O'Neill is forecast to ring the changes at the bank, in particular dealing with the problems at Barclays Capital, the bank's investment banking subsidiary, which has admitted losing £250 million in Russia.

Robin Down, an analyst at ABN Amro, said observers were heartened by Mr O'Neill's experience on the consumer retail side of the industry. His job title at Bank of America before taking on the Barclays role was president of "principal investing and wealth management", which in UK terms means he was in charge of looking after high-net-worth retail customers. David Coulter, chief executive officer of BankAmerica, who has worked with Mr O'Neill for five years, said: "He has all the requisite leadership skills needed, and will be keen to raise shareholder value."

Mr O'Neill said that he had not arrived at the bank with any particular corporate strategy in mind. He said: "I want to get to know the bank and how it all works, which will take around six months."

His background, with its heavy emphasis on corporate restructuring, however, immediately kicked off a spate of takeover speculation. Barclays has at various times during the past two years been linked to mergers with Abbey National, NatWest and Prudential.

"Clearly a lot has already been done in terms of consolidation in the UK," said Mr O'Neill, adding that all options for the future of the bank would be considered.

The bank is looking at the corporate activity in European banking with interest — earlier this month the French banks Société Générale and Paribas announced a merger, which almost immediately followed an annoucement of a merger between the Spanish banks Santander and BCH.

Sir Peter Middleton, group chief executive, however, argues that Barclays was already well represented in Europe.

Mr O'Neill did, however, rule out breaking up the bank into corporate and retail — a plan that is believed to have been part of the reason for the abrupt departure of Martin Taylor, the former chief executive, at the end of last year. He said: "Never in my 25 years as a banker have I seen a demerger, although there is alot of talk about it."

Sir Peter added: "We are not looking at it. We cannot demerge Barclays. Everything is totally interlocked."

On the thorny question of Barclays Capital, problems at which are also thought to have contributed to Mr Taylor's exit, Mr O'Neill was fairly opaque. He said: "Investment banking is certainly a corporate franchise. It is all a question of managing the risk of the company. We will be watching it carefully, but my starting position is that it does have a role."

He said he will move "children, family, dogs and everything" to the UK for the job, which he starts on March 26. It is not the first time he has lived in the UK, having spent eight years in London working as country manager for the Continental Bank. "In some ways it is like coming home," he said.

Mr O'Neill graduated from Princeton University with a degree in European civilization and pursues an interest in international relations as a trustee of the World Affairs Council of Southern California. He lists his interests as golf, exercise, jogging and "anything to keep myself a bit in shape".

Sir Peter will step down as group chief executive when Mr O'Neill joins Barclays. Sir Peter will continue as deputy chairman and a director until he succeeds Andrew Buxton when he retires as chairman and director at the annual meeting on April 23.

Worrier who does not get easily needled

Paul Drayson is a worrier — and he knows it. When he heard that Intel's Andy Grove had called his autobiography *Only the Paranoid Survive*, he says he "just had to read it".

As chairman and chief executive of PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, Dr Drayson's biggest worry is that complacency or negligence will prevent his company from establishing an Intel-like stranglehold on a new market: medical injections that avoid the pain of using a needle and syringe. He believes PowderJect has a huge opportunity. He worries to make sure the company does not blow its chances.

So far, there are few signs of it. PowderJect yesterday announced a $100 million (£61 million) deal with Ares-Serono, the Swiss company best-known for infertility treatments. That pushed PowderJect's high-flying shares up by more than a fifth, and put a value of £120 million on the 22 per cent stake held by Dr Drayson and Elspeth, his wife and co-founder.

The company established its credentials last March when Glaxo Wellcome adopted the PowderJect technology to deliver a new generation of gene-based vaccines. Potentially, the Glaxo collaboration is worth more than $300 million to PowderJect.

PowderJect is aiming to transform the injection of medicines. Its device is a kind of supersonic gun, that fires powdered medicines into the skin, painlessly and without the use of a needle.

Originally developed by Brian Bellhouse at Oxford University, the technology promises better performance from a reduced dose, because of its ability to deliver the drug or vaccine to precisely the correct depth of skin.

Like most good inventions, it's a simple idea with obvious attractions. Best of all, PowderJect appears to have a strong patent position that shuts out copycat competitors.

The device is about the size and shape of a pump-action toothpaste dispenser. The three main components are a small helium cylinder, a drug cassette and a "convergent-divergent" nozzle that controls the velocity of the microscopic particles of gold to which the drug is attached.

An impressive list of clients includes Zeneca, Pfizer, the vaccines arm of Rhône Poulenc and Roche's Boehringer Mannheim. But the first commercial use of the PowderJect device will be with the anaesthetic lidocaine and alprostadil, an impotence treatment currently given by needle injection. And PowderJect Lidocaine will not reach the market for another two years.

Some biotech industry leaders believe that means the company's stock market value of £550 million looks excessive. Too many UK biotechs have enjoyed a brief honeymoon before reality set in, in the form of clinical trial failures, management problems and other setbacks.

What is reassuring about Dr Drayson is his recognition that PowderJect still has much to prove. Hence his worrying. He is establishing a team from across the company to alert him to any threats or flaws that he may have overlooked.

He says: "You only get one chance to convince the pharmaceutical industry that your technology works."

Dr Drayson's PhD was in robotics and he is focused on PowderJect as a business rather than as a clever device. While in his 20s, he established a health snacks business for Trebor, and led a management buyout that produced the initial funding for PowderJect.

He and Robin Norris, his chief operating officer, display impressive attention to detail. He emphasises the importance of establishing PowderJect as a brand, to sustain the business after its patents expire in 2014.

Dr Drayson is adamant that PowderJect should be a transatlantic company, and it has operations in California and Wisconsin. He says: "I don't want to make this a British company because it's a real turn-off for Americans."

Patients feel and hear they are being given a PowderJect injection, but (having tried it) the sensation is not unpleasant. The noise is quieter than uncorking a bottle of wine.

Dr Drayson also frets about his position as chairman and chief executive — a dual role that he dearly wants to retain. PowderJect's nomination committee, is reviewing the issue.

Dr Drayson's desire to know where he may have got it wrong suggests he is far from being a power-crazed autocrat and his shareholders are unlikely to press the issue at the moment. However, Dr Drayson knows the real test of PowderJect's management will come when it suffers its first serious setback. He's worrying about it already.

PAUL DURMAN

Telecoms firms get ready to bid for upwardly mobile licences

Chris Ayres reports on the lead-up to a £2bn auction for new networks

Between now and April 2000, one of the largest Government auctions in history will take place, raising an estimated £2 billion pounds for the Treasury, and potentially creating thousands of new jobs.

The auction will be for licences to operate "third generation" mobile phone networks, and will be followed by similar auctions throughout Europe, America and Asia. Ultimately, these networks will allow mobile phones to perform tasks that would have been dismissed as science fiction ten years ago. In Berlin this week, Siemens unveiled a third generation mobile phone that doubled as a videophone and Internet browser.



Starring cast: front-runners for new mobile phone licences are expected to be Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One

Third generation networks will be based on a technological standard known as UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications Standard), although so far rival telecoms companies have failed to reach an agreement on its exact specifications.

This week has seen a flurry of activity related to UMTS, with BT and Microsoft joining together to develop products and services based on the technology, and the Department of Trade and Industry publishing rough guidelines on when the auction will take place, and how many licences will be up for grabs.

According to Michael Wills, the Government's Telecoms Minister, there are likely to be five licences, although an official decision will not be made until early next month. Most industry experts believe that Britain's existing big four mobile phone companies — Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One — will get licences, with the fifth licence being reserved for a new entrant to the market. This is likely to be a media company such as Carlton Communications or Reuters, or an upstart telecoms company such as Energis. Mr Wills says: "There could, in theory, be five new entrants. What we want, though, is for the technology to be rolled out as quickly and as efficiently as possible."

It is not yet clear how much each licence will cost, but Hans Snook, chief executive of Orange, believes it will be in the region of £300 million to £400 million. "What the Government doesn't want is people bidding, then going bust," he says. "What it also has to consider is the amount of jobs, exports and tax payments that will result from UMTS."

To understand UMTS, it is necessary to understand some of the technical history of Britain's mobile phone industry. When mobile phone companies began their explosive growth earlier this decade, they used poor quality first generation networks, based on analog technology.

These were replaced in the mid-1990s with second generation networks, based on a European-wide technological standard known as GSM (Global System for Mobile Telecommunications) which allowed customers to make better quality calls, and use basic e-mail and fax services. In spite of its name, however, the GSM system was incompatible with networks in the US. Although UMTS aims to end this incompatibility, a battle is still raging between the two companies which played a leading role in creating it: these are Ericsson, the European mobile phone handset manufacturer, and Qualcomm, the US technology company. Some believe it is still possible that the US could end up with an different system to Europe and Asia.

Wills: "efficient roll-out"

At present, politicians in both the US and Europe are distancing themselves from the squabbling. As Mr Wills says: "We are currently working out the implications of all this, but it is something for the industry to sort out itself."

So far, the planned introduction of UMTS has created confusion and excitement in equal measure on world stock markets. Many analysts feel that the introduction of UMTS should be accompanied by a fundamental re-evaluation of the prospects of mobile phone companies — but they don't know where to start.

Alan Lyons, a telecoms analyst at ABN Amro, the broker, says: "Because UMTS is an infant technology, we don't know the key parameters, such as how many base stations [mobile-phone masts] will be needed, how many people are going to want to download video on to their mobile phones, and how much the handsets themselves will cost."

Software companies have also found themselves at the centre of the hype surrounding UMTS. Many analysts believe that one company could end up dominating the market for mobile phone "operating systems" (built-in software) in the same way that Microsoft dominates the market for PC operating systems.

Psion, the British palmtop computer manufacturer, wants its Epoc operating system to become the standard. It has created a joint venture company, Symbian, with the world's three largest mobile phone handset manufacturers — Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola — to develop UMTS devices based on its software. However, Microsoft has similar plans for its CE operating system, hence its deal with BT this week, while Sun Microsystems aims to produce an operating system based on its Java computer language. Meanwhile, other big US technology companies, such as 3Com and Oracle, are also sniffing around the market.

George O'Conner, an IT analyst at Granville, the broker, says: "The history of the consumer market shows that it will go one way: just look at VHS and Betamax. At present, all the noise is being made by Sun and Microsoft, not Psion."

While such uncertainty remains, deals are likely to get more frequent and more frantic. Meanwhile, confusion has also surrounded the political side of the auctioning process. In Britain, the untimely resignation of Peter Mandelson, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and the subsequent reshuffle of Barbara Roche from the DTI to the Treasury, has brought delays to the timing of the auction.

Although the Government is desperate to see Britain become the first country in the world to introduce UMTS licences — thus boosting its image as the "information centre of the world" — many industry experts question the ability of Stephen Byers, Mr Mandelson's replacement, to get to grips with the issues quickly enough. Mr Wills has faced the same scepticism. However, he claims he will not be sleeping on the job. "I have to understand this. There are 24 hours in every day, and I will use every single one of them."

Sheepish

RAMROD the sheep enjoyed his trip up to town. You may have read in these pages how Peter Moore, the London Town Crier, was awarded the Freedom of the City and so decided to invoke the time-honoured right to herd sheep across London Bridge.

There is only one thing wrong with the story. There is no such right, and I have no idea why everyone seems to think there is.

Moore wanted to walk the sheep to publicise the Marie Curie Daffodil Campaign and Daffodil Day on March 20. He approached the police, who at first refused and then only relented provided that Ramrod was kept on a lead. As you can see, they sent along a contingent to keep an eye on him. "They didn't want all the people who had previously been refused permission to get up in arms about it," someone from the charity tells me.

Hang on. There can't be loads of people out there desperate to drive sheep over London Bridge, can there? "Apparently, lots of people do ask."



Oh nay: Moore, Ramrod and disapproving policeman

I WONDER what shareholders in Albert Fisher think of the £70,000 Stephen Walls earned from Lonmin when he was supposed to be running their excuse-ridden company.

Perhaps he should have spent a little less time demerging Lonrho Africa and a little more keeping Albert Fisher's cockles warm at night and telling its lettuces not to go out in the rain. And then perhaps they might have been better off and he might still have been chairman.

Bottle blank

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SCENES from a recent High Court case that could have come straight out of *Rumpole*. The City lawyer Pinsent Curtis has a fast-growing specialist business dealing with intellectual property. The team there was hired by one of the country's biggest bottle manufacturers, which was being sued by a small beer producer which makes a brand called Red Eye.

The plaintiff claimed that its bottle design was unique, and so any similar bottles should pay a royalty. The defendant had to prove that all drinks bottles were pretty much the same, whatever the brand.

The judge was Mr Justice Rattee — "and he can be, too," says a High Court source. Someone bought samples of Hooper's Hooch, Holsten, Budweiser, Corona and so on. One further wrinkle. To avoid any bias because of their different colours, each bottle then had to be painted white. Once dry, they were solemnly set in front of the judge.

"On close examination, he experienced some difficulty in telling them apart," I am told. Case to the defendants, and a terribly important one in the area of intellectual property. And it is certainly the first time a High Court judge has been served Hooper's Hooch.

LOUIS SCHWEITZER, the 56-year-old great nephew of Albert Schweitzer and the man who runs Renault, was having a good week. Renault was just days from buying control of the Romanian car manufacturer Dacia and he had just been honoured by being named Man of the Year by the French car industry.

Then the bombshell hit. Schweitzer has been dragged into the worst scandal to hit French public life in decades: the tainted blood trial which has the former Prime Minister Lauren Fabius and two colleagues charged with manslaughter.

Schweitzer was chief aide to Fabius from 1984 to 1986 but had no idea he might be called as a witness. He has just learned that he faces the court next week.

Bank bottler

SO THE new chief executive of Barclays was a US Marine, and in the rather critical years of 1969 to 1971. It does raise one obvious question, does it not? I ask Barclays what he did in the Marines. "He was an intelligence officer." And did he serve in Vietnam? "Not exactly."

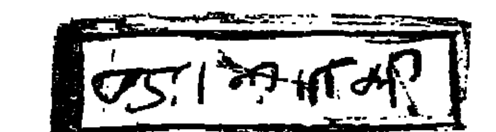
Not exactly? Visions of Charlie Sheen heading upriver into Cambodia, Colonel Kurtz and a crazed photographer. "This is the end/Beautiful friend, the end."

The truth, as my colleague sets out elsewhere, is that it was an ingenious ploy to avoid ending up as a conscript in Vietnam. Still, it makes you wonder. This man was so keen to avoid conscription he joined the Marines?

MARTIN WALLER

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Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

Capita and Microsoft to train teachers

By Fraser Nelson

CAPITA, the outsourcing and consultancy group, is to join forces with Microsoft to pitch for a slice of the £230 million of National Lottery funds available to train school teachers how to use the Internet.

Capita, which already runs a series of back-office functions for schools and colleges, is a preferred bidder after securing exclusive use of Microsoft software for its classes.

The scheme, which the Government announced three months ago, is designed to bring teachers up to date with technology so they are better equipped to instruct pupils.

Capita is expected to claim about £35 million of the £230 pot because it already has strong links with the eduction sector. Rod Aldridge, chairman, said: "We already supply software to 22,000 schools and administer the pensions payroll for 156 local education authorities. We have an enormously strong relationship with the sector."

While Microsoft will supply the software, the Universities of Nottingham and Cambridge have agreed to help to compile Capita's courses.

Although several other consortia have been cleared to bid for the contracts, Capita will be the only one to offer Microsoft programs.

The deal was announced as Capita turned in a 48 per cent jump in pretax profits to £27 million over 1998 — after winning £270 million of new business last year alone.

It also announced a £10 million deal with Railtrack, setting up a five-year scheme to approve contracts with firms that work on track repairs. It will design training courses, and will issue security cards, which all engineering workers must display if they want to work on the railways.

The company is now gunning for more human resource contracts such as that agreed with Westminster Council, which is using Capita to handle all its hiring and firing as well as administering payrolls and pensions.

Mr Aldridge said: "The Westminster deal was the first of its kind and no one would have predicted it was coming this time last year. Where one local authority goes, others follow, so this should give us plenty of other opportunities."

Earnings per share were 9.01p (6.51p), and the total dividend rises to 2.8p (2.1p) with a final of 1.9p due on April 29.

The shares were off 21p at 640p, coming off the record highs hit yesterday which put a market capitalisation of £1.3 billion on the company.

Cookson to cut 700 jobs in drive for efficiency

By Robert Cole, city correspondent

COOKSON GROUP, the electronics and ceramics supplier, is cutting 700 jobs — one third in the UK — in a cost-efficency drive.

News of the redundancies was accompanied by an upbeat assessment of current trading which sent the shares up 12½p to 141p yesterday.

Cookson also assured investors it was on target to report profits of £150 million for the financial year to December 31.



Howard: £150m profits aim

This is at the top end of analysts' expectations but is still significantly below the £179 million posted for 1997.

Cookson will close 20 of its 130 plants worldwide. The 700 jobs represents 4.5 per cent of the total workforce. It is to stop making certain products and slim down managerial and administrative functions.

Last November the company warned that computer manufacturers which use its electronics equipment, and steel makers which use its heat-resistant ceramic plumbing products, were hitting hard times.

Yesterday Stephen Howard, chief executive, said that trading continued to be tough but was moderately better than feared. Last month Morgan Crucible, which also makes ceramic products for use in blast furnaces, upset market sentiment by warning that its profits would be 15 to 20 per cent below what were then the market expectations.

Mr Howard said that the job losses and restructuring detailed yesterday would enable the company to to offer cheaper products.

"A thorough and broad-ranging review was undertaken for all group operations, with the aim of improving efficency and productivity and to ensure that cost and operating structures were appropriate to meet the continuing challenges that are anticpated in 1999," he said.

The changes will cost Cookson £1.5 million this year and £28 million next year, but are expected to save £8.5 million in operating costs this year and £14.5 million a year from 2000 onwards.

The £29.5 million total will be spent mostly on redundancy payments and relocation expenses. An additional £35 million charge will come as Cookson reduces the book value of business assets associated with the restructuring.

The company is also setting aside £6 million to bolster company pension funds in the US. It said that the extra pension fund contribution was made necessary by the restructuring moves that have taken place over the last 18 months.

The net effect of all the charges will give rise to exceptional costs of £49.5 million in the 1998 results, which are due to be published at the start of March. Another £21 million exceptional charge will hit 1999 profits.

Tempus, page 30

BEN GURR

RPS, the environmental consultancy where Alan Hearne, above, is chief executive, reported a 35 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £5.07 million for the year to December 31, 1998. A 2.75p final lifts the total dividend to 5.5p (4.8p). RPS had £3.9 million net cash at the year end

Inn Business seeks help to fight off Enterprise

By Dominic Walsh

INN BUSINESS, the tenanted pubs operator, is thought to be casting around for a possible white knight bidder to save it from the clutches of Enterprise Inns.

Enterprise admitted last month that it had made an approach. However, analysts said that there was no love lost between the two and that Inn Business would prefer to take itself private.

Alchemy Partners, which is backing the Vaux Breweries management buyout and recently took Ushers of Trowbridge private, is a possible contender. The venture capitalist is known to have a high regard for Alan Jackson, the Inn Business chairman.

Mr Jackson declined to be drawn, although he admitted that any offer from Enterprise would be "assessed against the numerous other strategic options available". He added: "We wish to pursue the strategy of an independent pub company as we believe we are doing better than anybody else."

Inn Business shares jumped 30 per cent to 60p after Enterprise's approach, although analysts believe the company is worth up to 100p a share. Yesterday it reported that pre-tax profits up 20 per cent to £7.6 million in the year to November 30, with earnings per share of 8.23p (6.76p). A final dividend of 1.85p makes 2.525p. Its assets have been revalued at 70p a share, a 49 per cent rise.

It also unveiled an acquisition of its own, having paid £12.2 million, including debt, for Trent Taverns.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Emap expands in US with £22m deal

EMAP, the publishing and media group, moved further into the US market yesterday with the $35 million (£21.9 million) acquisition of the automotive magazines arm of General Media. The deal brings in four magazines with a combined monthly circulation of 600,000 and annual revenues of £23 million, including *Four Wheeler* and *Stock Car Racing*. They will bolt on alongside Emap's US market leadership of the four-wheel motor magazine market after its £720 million acquisition two months ago of the Petersen magazine group, whose *4-Wheel & Off-Road* is the bestseller in the sector.

Kevin Hand, Emap chief executive, said: "We indicated at the time of the Petersen acquisition that we expected it to provide a good platform for further growth, both organically and by way of acquisition." The Petersen acquisition — Emap's first move into the US market — was Mr Hand's first deal after taking over from Robin Miller as chief executive in the autumn. Emap shares, which fell to 965p after the announcement of the Petersen deal, were up 21p yesterday at £12.21, though a little shy of the recent record high of £12.91.

Britt Allcroft shares up

SHARES in Britt Allcroft, the children's media and entertainment company, rose nearly 7 per cent to 360½p after it announced production plans for a full-length *Thomas the Tank Engine* feature film. The film will be a musical combining live action and model animation and will have a $15 million budget. Entitled *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*, the film will be distributed by Destination, a Hollywood distributor, for release in the summer of 2000. The company said it did not expect to report any revenues from the project until 2001.

Brixton bond issue

BRIXTON ESTATE, the property company, launched a £100 million bond issue to fund its continuing development programme. The bonds will be priced on a yield basis. The coupon and the issue price will be determined to give an effective yield to investors of 170 to 175 basis points over the 9 per cent 2008 gilt. The bonds will be repayable on December 30, 2010, and the interest on the bonds will be payable semi-annually. Brixton shares eased ½p to 186p, against a 12-month high of 255p.

Falcon sale dropped

TANDEM GROUP has withdrawn its Falcon bicycle business from sale after failing to agree terms with potential buyers, and is abandoning plans to refocus the business on activities to horseracing. Tandem's bicycle operations at Leigh, Greater Manchester, were closed last November and transferred to the Falcon business at Brigg in north Lincolnshire to reduce costs. The company said that adverse weather conditions and a slowdown in the export market had adversely affected sales at Falcon in the second half.

Armitage profits up

ARMITAGE BROTHERS, the petcare group, reported an increase in profits of 7 per cent at the halfway stage despite a 4 per cent fall-off in sales during the period. The company blamed weak exports and poor pre-Christmas sales in the 28 weeks to December 13 for the fall in turnover to £14.5 million, but said the rise in profits to £1.15 million was a result of a concentration on better margin products. The company also gave warning of weaknesses in current consumer demand. The interim dividend rose to 3.4p, up from 3.3p for the previous year.

Wallenberg accedes to the Investor throne

By Martin Barrow

MARCUS WALLENBERG, nephew of the Wallenberg patriarch Peter, was yesterday named chief executive of Investor, the powerful family-controlled investment company that towers over the Scandinavian business world.

The 42-year-old succeeds Claes Dahlback, who served for 21 years as chief executive of Investor, which owns large stakes in companies accounting for 40 per cent of the Swedish stock market.

The latest Wallenberg at the helm of Investor represents the fifth generation of the family to be involved with the business. An earlier Marcus ruled the empire for three decades through to the 1970s, brooking no dissent and even engineered the ousting of his brother Jacob from the board of the family bank, Enskilda.

The new chief executive, nicknamed Husky, is reputed to be a quiet thinker. Although highly regarded within business circles, there is some doubt as to whether he can hold Investor together in the current business climate.

Investor's holdings include a 45 per cent stake in Scania, the truck and busmaker that is being pursued by Volvo. After agreeing to sell its car business to Ford, Volvo bought a 13 per cent stake in Scania and sought merger talks, so far without success.

Investor also brokered the impending merger of Zeneca and Astra, which will form Europe's largest drugs group and merged papermaker Stora with Finland's Enso to create one of the world's largest forestry groups.

Mr Dahlback is to remain as one of Investor's two vice-chairmen, with responsibility for mergers and acquisitions.

Meanwhile, Volvo reported a 21 per cent fall in 1998 operating profits to SKr6.68 billion (£523 million). Volvo Cars, which was recently sold to Ford for £3 billion, rose 8 per cent but operating profits from the car division fell to SKr3.8 billion from SKr4.5 billion.

Hubco reports sharp drop in turnover

By Saeed Shah

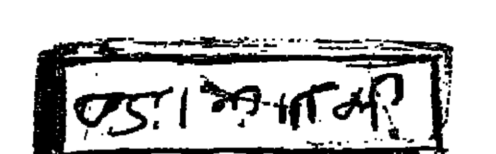
HUBCO, the Pakistani power producer that forms part of National Power's $400 million (£245 million) investment in the country, yesterday announced a sharp drop in interim turnover and profits, and said that profits may be cut further depending on a forthcoming court decision.

Net profits fell 37.8 per cent to 3.3 billion rupees (£38.8 million) for the six months to December 31, from 5.31 billion rupees in the same period. However, the results included a large amount of revenue from the the state-owned Water and Power Development Authority, which Hubco has not received and which is the subject of a case before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

If the case goes against Hubco, its net profit would fall by a further 50 per cent to just 1.66 billion rupees for the interim period. A court ruling last year also prevents Hubco from making dividend payments.

National Power, which has a 26 per cent stake in Hubco, has taken a £25 million charge in its interim results as a result of losses at Hubco and Kot Addu, its other power project in Pakistan.

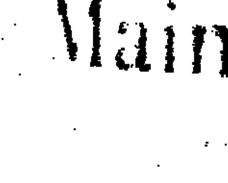
National Power paid $101 million for its Hubco holding, and it invested another $291 million for a 36 per cent stake in Kot Addu.



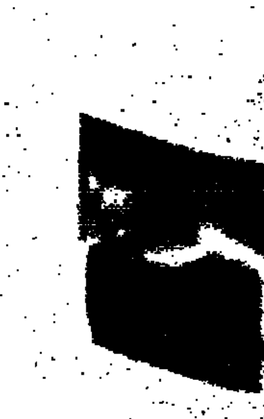
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7000				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	143.11	152.51	+ 0.69	..
-do- NAV to Jan 19	140.39	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	114.26	122.20	- 0.67	2.80
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98	.	..
US Eqy Safeguard	96.87	102.94	+ 0.49	.
Cash	951.61	955.36†	.	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	417.17	443.79	+ 7.62	1.80
UK Small Cos	87.95	94.06	+ 0.01	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	104.48	111.74	+ 0.51	1.89
Geared UK Index	#22.701	#23.964	+ 0.69	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.66	91.64		6.66
Monthly Inc	44.03	47.09†	+ 0.15	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	365.88	390.01	- 3.99	0.17
American Strat	171.58	183.05	- 1.39	..
JG US Index	#28.769	#30.310	+ 0.22	4.50
European Gen	434.36	459.57	+ 9.80	
European Strat	212.00	226.65	+ 4.67	
Japan Gen	106.62	112.82	+ 1.71	.
Asia Pacific	60.47	64.48	+ 1.41	1.09
Pacific Strat	83.30	89.09†	+ 1.18	
Greater China	139.39	149.08	+ 2.04	...
Latin America	56.92	59.80	+ 1.15	
Int Growth	194.83	208.37	+ 3.44	0.11
Balanced Europe	181.51	188.09	.	2.18
Global Strategy	46.87	50.13	+ 0.43	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust				
Balanced Acc	81.93	87.16	+ 1.26	1.74
Balanced Inc	73.60	78.30	+ 1.13	1.74
Brit Excell	128.00	136.20	+ 2.80	2.34
Brit Fxdintrts Acc	165.80	178.40	+ 1.80	4.03
Brit Fxdintrts Inc	102.80	109.40	+ 1.10	4.03
Europe	550.90	595.60	+ 8.40	0.30
General Acc	945.10	1004.00	+19.50	2.53
General Inc	756.40	804.10	+16.10	2.53
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	271.90	287.10	- 0.80	5.08
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	107.90	113.90	- 0.30	5.08



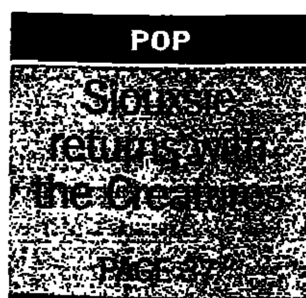








POP



THE TIMES

ARTS

THEATRE

Youth stoops to conquer in new musical

PAGE 38



Why did they stir salt into the porridge?

Call me sentimental, soft in the head or prematurely senile, but I never leave a Pimlico Opera show without a lump in the throat, an embarrassing prickling behind the eyes and a temporary feeling of goodwill towards all humanity. That is because the Pimlico productions I have seen took place in prisons. What's more, they involved prisoners — seriously bad boys, often — not just in chorus and backstage tasks, but alongside the opera pros in important speaking and singing roles.

And what's *more*, the lags have not been patronised or paraded like inmates of some 18th-century Bedlam. Instead, many see the shows as a genuine reprieve from whatever inner demons led them into their incarceration. Rather than being slapped down by the ritual humiliation that has been such a feature of British prisons even in recent times, they have been given back something that is perhaps even more valuable than their liberty. Their dignity.

Pimlico Opera, which specialises in refreshing the parts of society that other opera cannot reach, chooses its repertoire with wry aptness. It takes a special audacity to stage a musical about a serial killer for a cast and audience of real killers — but *Sweeney Todd* in the Scrubs was brilliant. Then came an unforgettable excursion into the gang warfare of *West Side Story* and a manically funny evocation of New York hoodlums in *Guys and Dolls*. Both of those I saw in HMP Wandsworth, a truly chilling place (the last British prison with a working gallows) miraculously if briefly made glorious by these displays of polished exuberance.

This week Pimlico staged another pertinent show. It was *The Threepenny Opera*, that witheringly misanthropic portrait of a Soho peopled by vicious villains and bent coppers, and it was staged at Downview Prison in Surrey. Downview may only be a medium-security clink, but in the early 1990s it had a dreadful reputation for drug-fuelled violence. For outsiders to have worked with the inmates on an opera in those days would have been madness.

But Colin Lambert, the present Governor, believes (as he wrote in the Pimlico programme) that "the present popular but unforgiving philosophy of rejection and condemnation must be replaced by a much more caring approach". His "voluntary anti-drugs policy" and rehabilitation programme seem to have transformed the atmosphere. And this extraordinary *Threepenny Opera* — which used many inmates serving time for drug-related offences — was a triumphant vindication of his optimism and strategy. At least, it should have been. But here the story turns sour.

Pimlico Opera may have picked up powerful allies — Sir Stephen Tumim, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, is its patron — but its liberal ethos has also provoked surprising hostility. And on Wednesday, as I found myself at Downview in an audience of just ten people, it became clear to me that this show had been as good as sabotaged.

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The ostensible cause was a prison officers' pay dispute with the Home Office. This was used as the excuse to implement a work-to-rule that effectively scuppered the advertised evening shows and meant that rescheduled performances had to be called "rehearsals", and played to just a few outsiders.

All this was thrown at Pimlico Opera six days before opening night. The result was that it had to return thousands of pounds in ticket sales. More important still, the prisoners who had worked so hard on this show were denied the brief reward of public acclaim.

Clearly, more than a salary grievance lies behind the prison officers' action. After all, Pimlico is not publicly funded for its prison work. Its indefatigable founder and music director, Wasfi Kani, raises all the money from foundations bearing such famous philanthropic names as Getty, Hamlyn and Mackintosh. So by sabotaging Pimlico's performances the guards were not hurting the Home Office. The suspicion must be that the underlying motive was to ruin the prisoners' big night.

If that is true, it is a surly tactic. Yes, it is wrong to get too romantic about the reformability of prisoners. Downview's inmates have done very bad things, and prison is meant to punish. But if a man emerges no better than he went in — or even more hardened — he will surely offend again.

Besides Pimlico, many other dedicated professional performers and artists work in prisons. Art won't turn criminals into saints, but it can divert pent-up energies and festering resentments into positive self-expression. Deprive prisoners of that and you might as well dig out the old signs saying "Abandon hope all ye who enter here".

At least, in time-honoured fashion, the show did go on in Downview. Without an audience the reverberation in the makeshift "theatre" (the prison gym) was immense, and this rendered much of Brecht's dialogue inaudible. (Some might feel this to be no great loss.)

But in Emma Jenkins's production the professional performers were compelling, especially Roger Monk as Mr Peachum and David Antrobus as Macheath. And next to these were outstanding efforts by the prison's own drama teacher, Esther Baker (Lucy), and two inmates: Trevor Toussaint, who sang *Mack the Knife* with ferocious intensity, and Ricky Fearon, playing the corrupt Chief of Police. And then there were Kurt Weill's sinister choruses, hurled out venomously by a bunch of real-life cons wielding baseball bats, saws and knives. A sight to send a frisson through braver spines than mine.

I am unqualified to judge whether Pimlico's prison excursions will aid the long-term rehabilitation of offenders. But I know that the company has achieved one small miracle at least. It has actually made opera seem *useful*. My goodness, that's dangerous. Lock them up!

DEE CONWAY



Birmingham Royal Ballet lets rip in Twyla Tharp's modern ballet classic, *In the Upper Room*, given its company premiere on Tuesday

Go for the burn

DANCE

The triple bill Birmingham Royal Ballet brings to Sadler's Wells this week reveals David Bintley's strengths as a director. Not only has he the imagination (and the choreographic talent) to resurrect one of the gems of British comic ballet, Ninette de Valois's 1940 *The Prospect Before Us*, he also has the nous to acquire one of the great modern ballets of our age. I am referring to Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room*, an instant classic from the moment it was unveiled by Tharp's own company in America in 1986. It entered the Birmingham repertoire on Tuesday, the star attraction of the company's London season.

BRB is the first British company to perform Tharp's exhilarating crossover ballet, and you can see why Bintley wanted it. It is a work so challenging and energising that it brings fresh life to those who perform it, and that is certainly the case with the Birmingham dancers. Although they have not quite gone the distance into the choreography's burning empowerment, they rip the stage apart most impressively. Dancers such as Grace Maduell, David Justin and Andrew Murphy are transformed, although the entire ensemble has its heart set on making this work.

Tharp's choreography and Philip Glass's commissioned minimalist score are in total agreement, driving forward with a relentless pulse and determination. The ballet opens with two "power" women in black-and-white striped prison gear and trainers (costumes: Norma Kamali) — they are the guard dogs who watch over this ballet. Sparked into action by Jennifer Tipton's striking lighting, they shuffle and slide, readying themselves for the rollercoaster ride. Gradually other men and women (appearing as if by magic through Santo Loquasto's black velvet set) take the stage, some in trainers, others in shocking red pointe shoes, looking like rebellious ballerinas (they are the bomb squad). The ferocity and glamour of their classical technique is contrasted with the casual, loose-limbed spontaneity of the trainer brigade. Body rolls share space with razor-sharp pirouettes; perilous pointed arabesques cut across the jazzy fluid lines. The evolving movement comes thick and very fast, and so consumed is it by energy that sometimes all it can do is run.

Only in the finale, when the ballet reiterates itself with dizzying effect, does the entire cast of 13 come together, trainers and pointe shoes flying. The women look strong, the men look happy, and so do we.

My only quibble with Bintley is that placing Tharp's ballet at the end of a triple bill that starts (in delightful fashion) with *The Prospect Before Us* and continues with Bintley's own *The Protecting Veil*, a somewhat soporific and protracted work set to John Tavener's famous score, makes for a long evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

Mainstream delicacies

CONCERTS

Influenza brought a change in the conductor, and a partial change of programme. But nothing could alter the aural characteristics of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. As soon as the 22-strong band struck up, led from the violin by Kenneth Sillito, not Iona Brown, our ears were being stroked by that silken sound, those imploring cellos, those diminuendos as sweet and delicate as a spider's web in the dew. The Academy would probably try to make Xenakis sound ravishing. Nothing so thorny was on offer, of course: this was a safe, mainstream programme of music for strings by Bartók, Shostakovich, Tippett and Britten.

Even so, did all the music need to sound quite so civilised, so caressed? This is an old Academy problem.

With Bartók's Divertimento, written in a hectic 15 days just before the outbreak of the Second World War, you missed a Hungarian snap to the folk gestures and rhythms, while the night-time shivers of the middle movement only really surfaced at the close. But there were benefits too, like the divine lilt to the snatch of polka in the finale, not to mention the gorgeous string tone.

With Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony some of the problems of expression lay in the music. This is an orchestration by Rudolf Barshai of his Eighth String Quartet of 1960, a searing piece written in three red-hot days, pointedly dedicated "to the memory of the victims of fascism and war", though there are also elements of a self-portrait. Sheer weight of numbers, however, made the hurtling scherzo lose some of its menace; the waltz echoes too emerged flattened, drained of any sarcasm. The Academy seemed happiest when the music shook off its inverted commas and settled down to being plain sombre: the final diminuendo was beautifully and feelingly judged.

In the second half, Sillito and his team reached solid English ground. Tippett's attractive *Little Music*, written for the Jacques Orchestra in 1946, is unfairly overlooked in concerts. Its littleness, perhaps, is part of the problem. Even after the Academy's finely balanced reading, all memories were knocked out of our heads by the cut and thrust of Britten's youthful showpiece, the *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*. Sarcasm may be hard for the Academy to handle, but pastiche is no problem, and they soared, strummed, plucked, and buzzed through Britten's kaleidoscope, happy as larks.

GEOFF BROWN

Nordic notes

During the past four years, those in the know have known well that, if you really want to experience the cutting edge of chamber-music activity north of the border, then the place to go is Aberdeen. A university with no official music department has succeeded, in a unique collaboration with its city council and the Scottish Arts Council, in scooping one of Europe's most sought-after young string quartets for a four-year residency.

That quartet is the Swedish ensemble Yggdrasil which, like the great Ash Tree of Nordic mythology, has sunk its roots deep into the Nordic musical bedrock while spreading its branches worldwide. Its successful residency winds down at the end of this month, and last week the leave-taking began with a formidable programme of Shostakovich, Carlstedt and Beethoven.

At the moment the ensemble is recording Shostakovich's complete quartets, and the performance of the Ninth in Aberdeen epitomised the searching intensity and commitment of its approach to this composer. The string quartets of the group's compatriot Jan Carlstedt are little known in Britain, but Aberdeen has been discovering them, and this concert presented the world premiere of his Sixth.

Carlstedt is, if you like, Shostakovich without the jokes. This five-movement, arch-form work develops its material with a thoroughness and thoughtfulness which is almost palpable. But from this very rigour bursts a raw, earthy passion. The second movement contracts the sturdy motifs of the first into taut rhythms, and lashes them with high, angry trills and thwacking pizzicato. The lyrical slow movement maintains intensity through textural tension and a gradually destabilising metre which, in turn, is metamorphosed into dance before a final elegiac epilogue.

It said much for Carlstedt's quartet that it stood its ground in the challenging company of both the Shostakovich and of a fast and furious performance of Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*. Yggdrasil, it seems, has shaken the granite city to its foundations, and new growth is already sprouting from the seeds of the great Ash Tree.

HILARY FINCH

■ **POP INTERVIEW**

Freddie Meyer, who he?

ARTS

■ **POP GIG**

Gay Dad, sad future

Freddie and his schemer

How does a complete unknown plug his debut single? By hijacking a saint and making a TV commercial, that's how



CAITLIN MORAN

You're lying in bed, a bit fluey. You're stuck in the ad break between Trisha ("You're too fat to wear that!") and Richard and Judy ("More news on that ghost on the A13") when this extraordinary commercial appears. It's Freddie Meyer, singing his brand new Valentine's Day single, *Do You Love Me?*. It's a slick, catchy slice of MichaelBoltonStuff. The ad, however, was obviously shot on a budget of 49p. We briefly see him onstage, in what appears to be 1987, before a barrage of cheaply animated hearts obscures him. *Do You Love Me?*, the voiceover intones, is available by ringing a special Freddie hotline. Or from Debenhams.

Three shots of Day Nurse and half a bottle of Buttercup Cough Syrup to the good, you are confused. Who the hell is Freddie Meyer? And you'd be right to wonder — after an hour and a half looking for him on the Internet, I can conclude that Meyer is the least famous person in the English-speaking world.

So how can this completely unknown man launch an utterly unprecedented advertising campaign for his debut single? Is he a lottery winner, blowing his wedge to impress The Guys Back At The Pub?

Freddie Meyer sits at a table in Leith's. He is all ponytail, leather waistcoat and bad trousers. Originally from Ohio, he saw the Motortown Revue at the age of 12, and "it blew my mind". He got a band together, and by 1966 had a residency in St Tropez. He hung with Charles Aznavour and Brigitte Bardot, and never got around to going home. He now makes his money writing songs for French films, and playing gigs at Euro Disney.

"I noticed when I played my own stuff, the crowds went wild," he says in a careful Midwestern drawl. "Danish, French, Belgian — people of all ages, even little kids, loved it." He gives a sleepy smile.

One gets the impression Freddie would have been quite happy with Euro Disney and his French film cheques; but rock'n'roll is a 50-50 split between dreamers and schemers, and Freddie's manager, Paul Bloomberg, is the latter. No one has ever looked more like a manager than Paul, with his jewellery, his blue suit, his Danny DeVito-as-hustler shtick. The impression is of Del Boy pushing an amiable, superannuated MOR Rodney.

"I thought it was crazy that Freddie had all these very classy songs, but no one knew who he was," he declares, leaning across the table. "All they want is four sperm with a guitar. We knew we'd have to find another way to get Freddie's music across to the people." So Freddie, Bloomberg and another friend called Steven pooled their money into a Get Freddie Famous fund, and started making plans.

"I thought. Freddie is a very romantic guy, and there is no more romanticker day than Valentine's Day." Bloomberg stretches expansively in his chair. "So hook him into that, and February 14 becomes Freddie Day." Entrusted with turning Valentine's Day into Freddie Day was Ross Capon at the advertising agency CKBT, which handles Johnson & Johnson, Daewoo and Rizla. Capon has the weary erudition of a man who's seen it all.

"I thought they should market themselves like anything else," he says. "We got a good deal on TV advertising space and the rest went from there, really." "The response had been fantastic," Bloomberg says. "We've had Freddie on Capital Gold, Melody, Heart FM and LBC. It's growing day by day."



There's no one romanticker than Freddie Meyer, even if he did meet his Waterloo at Waterloo. Geddit?

"And at the end of the interview, I always say 'Do you love me?' " Freddie chuckles. "It gets them, every time!"

Alas, the planned grand finale of Freddie Day has come a cropper. Waterloo station was to witness a Freddie Explosion, with half-naked Chippendale types handing out roses and CDs, Freddie being mobbed by "fans" as he alighted from Eurostar, and a 9ft long airship with Freddie's name looking down on it all. Tragically, Railtrack nixed the whole plan. "Something to do with planning. Waterloo's been our Waterloo," Capon sighs.

The astonishing thing about this admirable, ramshackle campaign, however, is that if it works, the music industry will be turned on its head. Freddie Meyer will have executed an act of brilliant subversion.

In the meantime, Freddie's leaning eagerly across the table. "One last thing," he says. "Do you love me?"

● *Freddie Meyer plays the Roadhouse, Covent Garden, on Monday*

Cooking with gas

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

NED ROTHENBERG
Sync
(Intuition INT 3249-2)

LEADER Ned Rothenberg compares his new band, Sync, to "a trio of chefs, experienced in varying degrees in the different musical cuisines of the world", and sees his own role as imagining the final meal. To this end, his compositions set his own clarinets, alto or shakuhachi (bamboo flute) against a beguiling variety of sounds: the tabla, dumbek and assorted percussion of Samir Chatterjee, and the acoustic guitars of Jerome Harris.

Some pieces are relatively straightforward jazz-based jams, others are freer in approach, abandoning regular rhythm altogether in favour of textural adventurousness. The result is a highly enjoyable vindication of Rothenberg's overall aim: to achieve "variety, but not at the expense of focus".

MISHA ALPERIN with JOHN SURMAN
First Impression
(ECM 1664 557 650-2)

LIKE many contemporary ECM products, *First Impression* is deeply contemplative, impeccably performed and flawlessly recorded. Pianist Misha Alperin is steeped in the folk tradition, but adept at transforming its melodies, via a sensibility informed by both jazz and classical music, into deeply affecting, highly individual compositions in which an almost crepuscular lyricism alternates with a lilting romanticism. The CD sleeve — all glacial blue and midnight black — perfectly represents the music within.

CHRIS PARKER

This is, that was, Gay Dad



Style over content: arrogance may be a prerequisite for the sort of band Gay Dad aspire to be, but it only works when it is backed up by great music

So, could the mega-hyped band show that there was more to them live than good haircuts and a great name? No, says **Stephen Dalton**

In recent weeks, Gay Dad have been virtually inescapable. The London-based band have enjoyed both saturation media coverage and a Top Ten hit with their infectious debut single, *To Earth With Love*. This situation arose partly because January and February are traditionally quiet months in the music industry calendar, but also because of a six-figure marketing campaign that plastered the band's striking logo on every available space throughout the capital. Taking into account that the band's frontman, Cliff Jones, is a former rock journalist with an arch and eminently quotable interview style, this financial gamble begins to smell like old-fashioned hype.

Thus the acid test for Gay Dad has been their current national tour, their first since becoming chart stars. Cut adrift from the currents of metropolitan taste, the band still managed to pack out the compact Fleece And Firkin in Bristol with expectant pop fans on Tuesday night. But many of these floating voters left unimpressed by the latest fad to be imposed on them by an excitable London media.

With his streaked blond locks and haughty swagger, Jones certainly looks like a classic rock frontman, a cross between Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and Sting in his Police heyday. Alas, Jones possesses neither the former's riveting passion nor the latter's pop sensibility. Also, the singer made few friends by demanding that the audience applaud at the end of the first number, a pedestrian hybrid of mild psychedelia and knowing glam rock pastiche. Arrogance may be a prerequisite for the sort of band Gay Dad aspire to be, but it only works when it is backed up by great music.

In fairness, Jones eventually proved to be an averagely accomplished guitarist and moderately capable songwriter. At least one of his more upbeat tunes possessed an elegant, Beatlish melody while a couple of freewheeling ballads showed the potential to become the sort of airbrushed epics that Bryan Adams or Jon Bon Jovi might attempt. But *To Earth With Love* lacked the spark of its recorded version, while similarly flat compositions such as *Oh Jim* and *Black Ghost* were merely graceless and faceless. For a band who have apparently been in gestation for at least five years, this paucity of memorable melodies does not bode well at all. What on earth were they doing all that time? Not writing songs, it seems.

Although reportedly conceived as some sort of grandiose conceptual art project, Gay Dad played a remarkably straight rock show in Bristol. On this evidence, they are neither intriguingly avant-garde enough to woo a cult following, nor arrestingly commercial enough to warrant mainstream attention. They have filched a parade of muddy, well-thumbed ideas from rock history, but mere cleverness is no substitute for the simple thrill of great pop. They will need far more charisma, originality and heart-stopping tunes if they hope to extend their 15 minutes of artificially inflated fame into a serious career. Premature adulation will do them few favours in the long run.

Decline of the Siouxsie nation



Dressed for a lack of success: Siouxsie Sioux and Budgie follow trends, rather than initiate them, on *Anima Animus*

NEW POP ALBUMS

THE CREATURES
Anima Animus
(Sioux 4CD £12.49)

IT IS too soon for a Siouxsie and the Banshees revival, but in the meantime Siouxsie and drummer Budgie return to the fray with *Anima Animus*, their third album in the guise of the Creatures. As pop's most celebrated Darby and Joan act, they know each other's game inside out, and the marriage between her icy yodel and his marauding tom-tom tattoos is carried out with consummate poise.

But it is a curiously uninvolving collection, despite some intriguing rhythmic variations on *Disconnected* and the outlandishly dark lyrics of *Exterminating Angel*: "Ripping through your menstrual stream/Rising up taste of rusty can/And jagged-glass feeling again". And on the P.J. Harvey-ish *Prettiest Thing* and the Portishead-influenced *Don't Go To Sleep Without Me*, there are clear signs that these once proud innovators are now playing catch-up with current developments.

BLONDIE
No Exit
(Beyond/RCA 74321648732 £14.49)

COMPARED with the reunions of bands such as the Velvet Underground and the Sex Pistols, the Blondie comeback was not so surprising. But to find them at No 1 this week with *Maria*, a gem of a single and their first new hit since they disbanded in 1982, is certainly cause for wonderment. The explanation lies partly in the fact that, unlike those other groups, Blondie have done the necessary groundwork, touring at grass roots level as well as writing and recording new material, rather than relying on media hype and a classic back catalogue.

Blondie's music occupies a point on the stylistic compass somewhere between frivolous, street-smart pop and "quality" rock, and the tension between the two is evident throughout this album. *Screaming Skin*, with its fidgety ska beat, *Boom Boom in the Zoom Zoom Room* featuring Debbie Harry in pseudo-scat singing mode and the title track, with its cheeky quotes from Bach's Toccata and Fugue, are all songs which, although carefully crafted, refuse to take themselves too seriously.

Another disorientating feature is the constant changing of stylistic hats: the Spector-ish girl group sound of *Out in the Streets*, a faux-country waltz time signature for *The Dream's Lost on Me*, a brisk reggae pulse for *Divine*. That they can make such a disparate bunch of arrangements all sound like bona fide Blondie songs is a mark of the band's continuing greatness, and if it does not quite hang together as an album, *No Exit* will doubtless function as a rich source of future hit singles. It certainly provides a firm artistic rationale for the group's return to active duty.

JOHN MELLENCAMP
John Mellencamp
(Columbia 491652 £14.49)

"I'M NOT the young kid I used to be," John Mellencamp sings on *I'm Not Running Anymore*. Well, he can join the club and, while he's at it, reflect on the fact that in rock'n'roll, as in life, once you reach a certain stage it can often be too late to rectify past mistakes.

In Mellencamp's case, the failure to tour here over the years means that another fine album by the fading American superstar is destined to be passed over by the British record-buying public. This is a shame. For, as well as dutifully shoehorning a few modern dance music effects into the mix of *Break Me Off Some* and spicing up the Stax-like *Summer of Love* with a sitar part where you would expect the horn solo to be, Mellencamp continues to play to his considerable strengths, conjuring up another raft of well-observed rural-rock narratives spiced with a twist of violin.

The homespun philosophies come thick and fast — "What you believe about yourself/It all comes true" — along with a pessimistic State of the Union address called *Eden is Burning* which catches up on the story of Jack and Diane, the couple from Mellencamp's 1982 hit of the same name. "Nothing's forever. I guess it's true," he sings, the genuine and rueful voice of experience.

BOOM BOOM SATELLITES
Out Loud
(R&S RS 99149 £14.99)

THEY have been called the Japanese Chemical Brothers and their heavy techno approach is frequently compared to that of the Prodigy, but that is only part of the story. For whereas the galvanising rhythm tracks of those acts are all sampled and machine-generated, the duo from Tokyo make liberal use of guitars and drums as well as technology, an arrangement more in line with the working practices of the Propellerheads than of the other British big beat acts.

When they lock on to a John Bonham-meets-Massive Attack groove during *Missing Note*, it sounds like a surprisingly nimble Godzilla on the move. Throw in industrial, funk and jazz influences, such as the Miles Davis-style trumpet and flute flourishes in *Better the Jam No 3*, and the result is dancefloor dynamite.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

LINKS

WEBSITES:
The Creatures: www.thecreatures.com
Blondie: www.blondie.net
John Mellencamp: www.mellencamp.com
Boom Boom Satellites: www.rsrecords.com

TELEVISION:
Top of The Pops, BBC1, tonight, 7.30pm
Later with Jools Holland, BBC2, tonight, 12.45am

RADIO:
UK Top 40, Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	**You've Come a Long Way, Baby**	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
2	(3)	**Talk on Corners**	Corrs (Atlantic)
3	(2)	**I've Been Expecting You**	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
4	(4)	**Step One**	Steps (Jive)
5	(10)	**The Miseducation of**	Lauryn Hill (Columbia)
6	(5)	**Forgiven, not Forgotten**	Corrs (Atlantic)
7	(6)	**Ladies & Gentlemen - the Best of**	George Michael (Epic)
8	(7)	**Where We Belong**	Boyzone (Polydor)
9	(11)	**Ray of Light**	Madonna (Maverick)
10	(9)	**Big Willie Style**	Will Smith (Columbia)

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Faith — the music

Christian rock band dc Talk are showing the Devil who has the best tunes, says Lisa Verrico

"If someone connects with us, shares our faith, so be it," say dc Talk. "If they don't, it's OK. We're not here to preach"

Not since the Beatles and the Stones rubbed shoulders with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi have religion and rock'n'roll been better friends. Madonna no longer criticises Catholicism, she sings in Sanskrit and practises yoga. At a recent awards ceremony, Buddhist Beastie Boy Adam Yauch — whose band has turned Tibetan monks into pop's hippest cause — made a plea to Muslims. Meanwhile, Wu-Tang Clan leader RZA, bad boy rapper Mark Morrison and former House Of Pain frontman Everlast all claim to have converted to Islam. Even Courtney Love has taken to dangling Tibetan mala beads from her microphone.

While pop's current flirtation with Eastern religion may be purely a fashion fad, a decade of steadily building sales of faith-based music is proof that the public's interest has a longer shelf-life. Moreover, in mainstream America — and more recently Britain — Christian rock has been making a comeback. In America, the likes of Australian act Newsboys, Audio Adrenaline and the multi-platinum Jars of Clay frequently fill arena-sized venues. Britain's Delirious sold out Wembley Stadium, despite receiving next to no mainstream media coverage.

To date, though, the scene's biggest success story is Nashville-based band dc Talk. Since forming exactly a decade ago, the trio have recorded one gold and two platinum-selling albums, each of which won a Grammy award. Their latest album, *Supernatural*, is set to do even better. It peaked at No 4 in the *Billboard* chart, is poised to surpass the 1.5 million sales of its predecessor, 1995's *Jesus Freak*, and is all but guaranteed to add to the band's haul of Grammies.

However, on a two-day trip to London prior to the album's release in this country, band members Kevin Max and Toby McKeehan do not seem over-pleased by the prospect.

"Of course, it's nice to be recognised," says McKeehan. "It would be an honour to win another Grammy We're just a little disappointed with the nomination."

McKeehan's disappointment stems from the category in which *Supernatural* is to be judged. Thanks to the trio's devout Christian beliefs the awards panel has labelled the album "gospel pop". That dc Talk had hoped to break into the mainstream rock/pop category for the first time says much about the state of contemporary Christian music.

"To us, gospel means church music," says McKeehan. "Our aim has always been to appeal to as many music fans as possible, whether they are Christian, Buddhist or non-believers." Fresh from an extensive, arena-sized American tour (one gig in Detroit attracted an audience of 15,000), dc Talk are well on the way to achieving that goal. "We've certainly broken down a lot of barriers," says Max. "At home, we're seen as a rock band which just happens to have Christian beliefs."

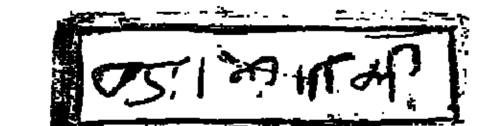
dc Talk's crossover appeal undoubtably owes much to the appearance of its members. As soon as our interview is over, Max and McKeehan hit Harvey Nichols on a shopping spree. Then they're off to a smart Soho restaurant, where they will be seen drinking absinthe until the early hours.

"Did you expect us to be dressed in dodgy jeans and handing out leaflets?" asks Max. "That isn't our style. Our lyrics express a faith which is a very big part of our lives. If someone connects with that, if they share that faith, so be it. If they don't, it's OK. We're not here to preach."

Instead, they are here to play good music. Awarded four out of a possible five stars by Q magazine, *Supernatural* is a consistent rock album which mixes harmonic vocals with 1960s-sounding melodic pop and British indie influences such as early Radiohead.

"We grew up on the pop charts and our parents' Beatles albums," says McKeehan. "My influence was the Police, Kevin's was Queen. There's no reason why spiritual music shouldn't sound good."

● Supernatural *is released by Virgin on Feb 22. The single* My Friend (So Long) *is out now*



■ LISTINGS
Leicester gets the laughs

ARTS

■ THEATRE
Poliakoff's BBC play

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON



Leonard Slatkin conducts Czech music in Oxford

PARSIFAL: Mark Elder returns to English National Opera to conduct Nikolaus Lehnhoff's new production of Wagner's powerful allegory on the struggle between good and evil. Kim Begley heads the cast which also includes Gwynne Howell, Kathryn Harries and Peter Sidhom.
Coliseum (0171-632 8300). Opens tomorrow, 4pm. Ⓢ

TOAST: Debut play by Richard Bean, set in a Hull bakery disturbed by a new arrival. Richard Wilson directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7pm. Opens Mon, 7pm. Till March 6.

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT. Monica Huggett takes on the double role of violin soloist and director with the period band in an evening of French Baroque music offering works by Lully, Charpentier and Rameau.
Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

HOWIE THE ROOKIE. Mark O'Rowe's nightmare account of Dublin's vicious underworld feuds. Mike Bradwell directs Aidan Kelly and Karl Shiels.
Bush (0181-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF: The celebrated Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes joins the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** under Mark Wigglesworth in Beethoven's Emperor Concerto framed by Rossini and Shostakovich.
St David's Hall (01222 878444). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

LEICESTER: Launch of ten days of rib-tickling comedy as the Leicester Comedy Festival opens its doors to a plethora of humorous acts. Films, theatre and stand-up shows feature in an action-packed programme which offers a vast line-up of funnymen including Ennio Marchetto, John Hegley and Jeff Mirza. With contributions from Forkbeard Fantasy et al.
Festival hotline (0800 952 5511).

OXFORD: Leonard Slatkin continues his survey of Czech music as he conducts the **Philharmonia** in the second part of his acclaimed Czech Connections series. Here the PO performs Smetana's hymn to his native country, Ma Vlast, and Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto played by Mikhail Pletnev.
Sheldonian Theatre (01865 798600). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs.
Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). Ⓢ

◪ **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour). Anthony Page directs.
Lyttelton (0171-452 3000). Ⓢ

□ **AND THE BROTHER TOO:** Eamon Morrissey returns to the inimitable comic writings of Flann O'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his curious world view.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000). Ⓢ

□ **SARA:** Patrick Miles's treatment of Chekhov's Ivanov, focusing on the struggles of the hero's Jewish wife.
Bridewell (0171-936 3456).

◪ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's intelligent play transfers to the West End.
Duchess (0171-494 5075).

□ **THE RIOT.** Co-production with Kneehigh Theatre of Cornwall, presenting Nick Darke's new play, set at the turn of the century where the army is brought in to quell the rivalry between two towns.
Cottesloe (0171-452 3000). Ⓢ

◪ **OKLAHOMA!:** National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein.
Lyceum (0171-416 6099).

◪ **RICHARD III:** Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC transfer from Stratford.
Savoy (0171-836 8888). Ⓢ

□ **FOURPLAY:** Post-modern bedroom farce by Spanish dramatist Sergi Belbel. Hans-Peter Kellner directs for Mammoth productions.
Lyric Studio, W6 (0181-741 8701). Ⓢ

□ **CERTAIN YOUNG MEN:** Peter Gill directs Jeremy Northam, Sean Chapman and six other young actors in his exploration of the way today's men live together.
Almeida Theatre (0171-359 4404) Ⓢ

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG). Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. It's supremely well acted, but the comedy about survival in a death camp is at best nauseous.

YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS (18): Neil LaBute's withering, sex-obsessed comedy of manners tracks the anxieties of six yuppie thirtysomethings. The humour and cynicism knocks the stuffing out of Ally McBeal. With Nastassja Kinski and Aaron Eckhart

SWITCHBLADE SISTERS (18): Cheesy re-release of Jack Hill's cult film about teenage delinquents. A gang of sullen females terrorise hopeless police and God-fearing owners of greasy burger joints. The joy of Hill's film is never knowing how far he has his tongue in his cheek.

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG). Jenny Seagrove and Anthony Edwards star in a quirky Valentine comedy where they outwit the dastardly dentist. Charles Dance.

JACK FROST (PG): Michael Keaton comes back to life as a snowman to spend quality time with his son. The heatwave doesn't come quick enough. Directed by Troy Miller.

MY GIANT (PG): Sleazy film agent Billy Crystal discovers a Romanian giant and whips him off to star in bad movies in Hollywood. Big ego trip for Crystal, bad move for everyone else. Michael Lehmann directs.

HOTEL DU NORD (PG): Marcel Carné's bitter-sweet 1938 classic about two sets of Parisian lovers has fabulous performances from Louis Jouvet and Arletty.

CURRENT

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot film by Gillies MacKinnon with Saïd Taghmaoui, Bella Riza and Carrie Mullan.

PECKER (15): John Waters's satire on the art world lacks his usual bite but there are enough bad-taste moments to keep the humour bubbling.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.

Auntie's rules of war

When Orson Welles presented H.G. Wells's *War of the Worlds* on steam radio, he famously sent crowds out in panic on to the American streets, thinking the Martians had really invaded. If the medium was as potent as that in the 1930s, couldn't it have been used to greater moral and political purpose by the BBC when Hitler's persecution of the Jews was becoming ever more obvious and violent?

That is the question at the core of Stephen Poliakoff's *Talk of the City* and, despite several weak spots in its fabric, the result is a play which nicely illustrates that fine dramatist's knack for finding an unusual topic and fascinating you with it. From the start it is clear that the institution Reith built will not easily be put to even mildly radical uses. It is 15 years old, and already exudes ersatz venerability. The sound of kissing on air is forbidden, smoking in the building a sacking offence. The announcers are required to sound uninvolved in a polite, staccato sort of way, since the listeners need to be reassured that the news is as remote from their lives as, let's say, that faraway country Czechoslovakia is from their living rooms. Television permits greater freedom — but who cares? The irony is that so few people watch the strange new medium that, unlike the wireless, it is "free from prying eyes".

THEATRE
Talk of the City
Young Vic

Poliakoff, who also directs, has a terrific time evoking the youth of an Auntie who was never young, and, in particular, recreating the sort of variety show that then might have been permissible: songs, invisible dance, jokes, affable chatter with celebrities and, weirdly flung in, bits of detective thriller. Indeed, it is the host of one of these rambling programmes who gives him his plot. David Westhead's smiling, saloon-bar Robbie is gradually drawn into the force-field of Angus Wright's splendidly disdainful, incisive Clive, and persuaded to use his growing celebrity to expose the anti-Semitic atrocities unrolling in Germany.

That bureaucracy, political caution, fear of giving offence, commercial pressures and what used to be called "repressive tolerance" combine to make this endeavour difficult is the least of the play's surprises. The true oddity is that, within the tyrannical BBC that Poliakoff postulates, Robbie succeeds in exploiting the possibilities of live performance as long and mischievously as he does. Moreover, isn't the appearance of a German-Jewish lover an implausibly convenient way of converting him to political activism? And would the kind of protest he and Clive have in mind really have changed much in an era when, as Poliakoff also shows, insularity and appeasement rule?

But even though some characters are more rewarding than others — Kelly Hunter seems especially shortchanged as a young woman working for that remarkable period enterprise, Mass Observation — Poliakoff's RSC cast transfers well from Stratford's Swan. And if the play has its inconsistencies and untidinesses, it remains engrossing, stimulating and, I'd suggest, timely. Television has brought the BBC still greater power. Does it use that power wisely, responsibly, constructively and well in the late 1990s?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



David Westhead (Robbie) and Angus Wright (Clive) in Stephen Poliakoff's timely RSC play, *Talk of the City*

Youth on the hoof

The Kissing Dance
Lyric, Hammersmith

This joyous production of a new musical based on Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* shows the National Youth Music Theatre once again threatening to beat the professionals at their own game. For pure enjoyment this is every bit as good as its recent *Bugsy Malone*, which won a West End transfer last year.

The conceit of Goldsmith's great farce is that a man who cuts a swaggering dash with the wenches at the inn can become a gibbering wreck in polite female company. How to get him together with his intended, the genteel but minx-like Miss Kate Hardcastle? And how to marry his friend to her cousin, in the teeth of Mrs Hardcastle's itchy-palmed opposition? By a string of improbable coincidences, naturally, which have him believing that her home is an inn, and her father its keeper. Cue endless misunderstandings.

Charles Hart's witty book and lyrics take a fair few liberties with the original, but he easily keeps the exuberant good humour intact. Howard Goodall's attractive score moves from melodious mellowness to rumbustious revelry with assurance; the young band is note-perfect. The direction and choreography are full of lively detail. Hardly a second passes without some inspired buffoonery or delicate nuance.

The cast of 16 to 20-year-olds are energetically enthusiastic and focused. Seventeen-year-old Gina Beck as Kate Hardcastle, squealing away with pure-toned glee and quivering with perfectly articulated emotion, is highly promising. Ian Virgo as Tony Lumpkin, the scallywag who sets the whole scenario going, and Alexander Hassell as Charles Marlow, manically mugging away with painful awkwardness as Kate's reluctant beau, are capable physical comedians. So, too, are Neil Clench and Jess Brooks as the parents: Brooks in particular, playing 50 at 17, brings off the rather common Mrs Hardcastle with swooping vocal pyrotechnics. A latecomer to the part, with a bit more practice she will be perfect.

But it's really unfair to single anyone out. Each minor character has a moment in the spotlight; and the choruses are every bit as good. You can't put a quaver between them. Maybe the ending is a bit loose, and the crescendo at the end of the first half slightly forced; maybe one or two characters lack a bit of weight, and there was the occasional sign of nerves. But it all has the absolutely appropriate feel of a merry, bawdy dance. A treat.

NIGEL CLIFF

Author, author, author?

This play is billed as by Patrick Miles. But forget about that. You may forget about the production too, which is by an outfit named Weaver-Hughes Ensemble, but first things first.

The play is actually by Chekhov and is called *Ivanov* but you will search the six pages of the programme in vain for this author's name. In Chekhov's play, as in this one attributed to Mr Miles, Sara is Ivanov's Jewish wife, who becomes a Christian out of love for him, is cursed by her parents and dies of TB between Acts III and IV, having also lived pretty miserably in Acts I and II.

Note what the press release tells us about this piece: "Focusing on Sara's story rather than Ivanov's, using music and symbols from contemporary culture, this challenging work invites questions about Chekhov, theatre, racism and women's roles in society." In that statement are eight examples of what I think Churchill called terminological inexactitudes. Let them pass. What I won't let pass is Miles's gall in foisting upon us little more than a straight translation and pasting his name on to it.



Sara
Bridewell

If I persuaded a fringe theatre to stage a play called *Ophelia* by Jeremy Kingston, a challenging work that invites questions about Shakespeare etc, an audience would expect some Stoppard-like interpenetration of the text focusing upon Polonius's daughter. After all, other people have done this sort of thing. Someone wrote a play about two Englishmen prowling among the cherry trees prospecting for Fuller's earth (they get a passing mention in Chekhov's Act IV), and there is a play called *Mrs Vershinin*, telling the story from her point of view.

What audiences at my *Ophelia* would not countenance is a virtual word-for-word recapitulation of the familiar five acts all the way from "Who's there?" to "Go, bid the soldiers shoot." I noticed a couple of changes from the original *Ivanov*. Idiotically, the first page of Act I is lifted from its proper place and dumped in the middle of the following act.

The guests at Lebedev's party walk off, carrying their vodka glasses and flower-painted teacups, and on come Sara and Dr Lvov. Chat chat, then off they go and back come the Lebedev lot. It's meaningless. Ivanov's suicide is cut and the play simply fades out.

Timothy Hughes (director) appears to have ordered the cast to keep moving, so round and round they go, clonk clonk. Shows this feeble give the Fringe a bad name.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Wales 20

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Hooray Henrik

Hat-trick keeps Celtic title hopes alive

sport 2-3

Blair's promise: real power for new Scotland

Jordan swears in new king

The *Sunday Herald*'s lively, colourful launch issue sold 130,000 copies. Over the weeks ahead, the test of the paper will be the strength of its editorial content

The brash newcomer needs substance as well as style, says Magnus Linklater

"What research have you done, Mr Maxwell, to convince you that there's a market for this new paper?" Robert Maxwell — for it was he — beamed broadly. "It's all in here," he said, pointing to his ample girth. Gut instinct, he assured the interviewer, was a better guide than focus groups or market surveys. Alas, he was wrong. Five months later the *London Daily News* was dead and buried, having failed to find an audience.

As the Editor of that short-lived paper, I experienced a strong sense of *déjà vu* last weekend as I watched another launch, this time a Sunday broadsheet, published in Glasgow. The *Sunday Herald*, billed as "noordinarysunday" is competing, like the *Daily News* once did, against a well-established rival in a crowded market.

There is another parallel. The boss of that rival is the same man who saw off the *Daily News* back in 1987. Bert Hardy, formerly managing director of the *Evening Standard*, is now chief executive of Scotsman Publications, owners of *Scotland on Sunday*, which has a ten-year start on the new arrival. Watching his tactics in the forthcoming battle will be at least as fascinating as studying the character of the new paper itself.

The Scottish Media Group, publishers of the *Sunday Herald* and owners of Scottish Television as well as the 200-year-old Glasgow daily, *The Herald*, claim, unlike Mr Maxwell, to have done their homework and detected that famous "gap in the market".

Although Scottish readers have access to no fewer than 12 Sunday papers, six of them broadsheet, the west of Scotland is said to be ripe for exploitation. *Scotland on Sunday*, printed in Edinburgh, and with a circulation of 130,000, sells only a third of that in Glasgow and Strathclyde, which has, nevertheless, half of Scotland's population.

By this calculation, a young, affluent ABC readership is still being poorly served by indigenous papers; with the build-up to a Scottish parliament and growing interest in Scottish affairs, the time is ripe for a new, intelligent Sunday. That, at least, is the theory.

Reality began last weekend. Setting itself a target of 50,000, the *Sunday Herald* printed 200,000 and, despite production and distribution problems, sold 130,000 — not a bad start. Interestingly, none of its rivals, including *The Sunday Times* and *Scotland on Sunday*, experienced much of a dip.

Clearly readers were giving the arrival a try-out. Mr Hardy's response has been to promote his paper in the run-up to the launch, but not to start a price war — as he did in London by launching a downmarket *Evening News*.

The first issue of the *Herald* was certainly lively, colourful and eager to please. Proclaiming itself "a new independent newspaper for an exciting new Scotland", its front-page masthead and contents panel had seven different colours, with *Sunday* in blue and *Herald* in orange. The body text and headlines, however, were more elegant, something like the *Independent on Sunday*. It boasted six sections, although one, on inspection, turned out to be its website, "interactive" with readers during the week.

By calling itself the *Herald*, the paper is signalling its attachment to Glasgow and bidding for readers of the daily. One challenge will be to win these over and open up a younger market. The national trend would appear to be against it. Sunday papers are in decline — down by 4 per cent last year.

New papers always strive to launch with a strong exclusive story. The *Herald* claimed no fewer than seven. But not all lived up to expectations. Leading on an interview with Tony Blair was safe but unexciting, and to learn that Monica Lewinsky will be including Scotland on her book-promotion tour is exclusive only in that no one else has yet bothered to report it.

The Editor, Andrew Jaspan, has decided to include business in his first section and has left analysis and comment to the second, called *Seven Days*. The grounds, presumably, are that Glasgow's business readership will be drawn into the paper early on. The effect, however, is to bring the "flow" of that all-important first section to an abrupt end.

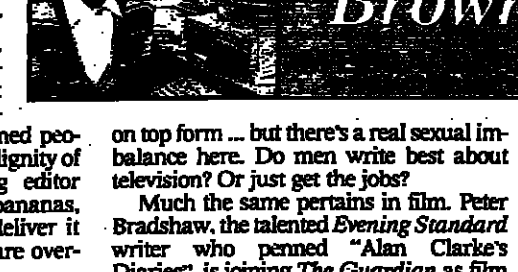
As the paper evolves, it might be better to effect a discreet swap and leave business till later. The paper has two tabloid sections, a lifestyle directory and a sports section. Sport, of course, is vital for any paper, doubly so in Glasgow, and putting Celtic on the front was presumably a none-too-subtle signal that this was not going to be another Rangers-supporting paper. But surely Scotland's rugby triumph over Wales was the story of the day. By confining that to inside pages, it was losing out on news impact.

The mood in the paper is upbeat. "We've been bowled over by the positive feedback," said the deputy editor, Rob Brown. But it has had its first staff upset. The foreign editor, Patrick Small, left abruptly on Monday after an altercation over the quality and production of his pages.

Meanwhile, at *Scotland on Sunday*, Mr Hardy is keeping his powder dry. "The launch was certainly a success," he said, "but the paper did not live up to expectation. It had no news, the magazine was poor, and sport was very weak. We intend to attack them on sport. By the fifth week we should know who's come out on top."

The test of the paper over those weeks will be the strength of its editorial content rather than the gimmicks, the design, or the colour. The *Herald* has some good writers — Iain McWhirter on politics, Kirsty Milne from the *New Statesman*, Andrew O'Hagan from *The Guardian* — but it will need to demonstrate that it has substance as well as style. A good start, then, but this fledgeling still has a lot to prove. And across in Edinburgh, a seasoned campaigner will be watching for any signs of weakness.

Has C4 faked again?



■ ANOTHER Channel 4 programme, *Guns on the Street*, part of an *Undercover Britain* series, is under investigation. The network confirms that its lawyers are investigating how the material, showing the trade in illegal sub-machineguns, was obtained after allegations were made about it. The programme was screened in March 1996 and Channel 4 has interviewed the production company, Ray Fitzwalter Associates, headed by a former *World in Action* editor and a leader of the Campaign for Quality in Television. The truth, and whether the producers were duped, has yet to be resolved.

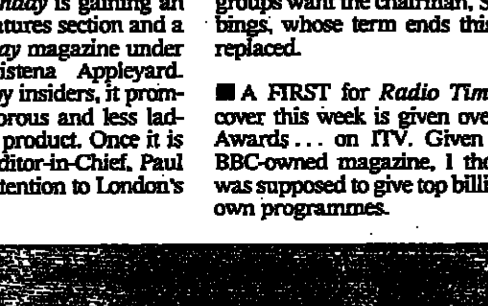
■ HERE'S my suggestion to stamp out rogue practices. TV companies could set up a "failure fund" so that independent producers, terrified of going bust when documentaries fall at the barrier of truth, could receive compensation. As Carlton Television's new director of programmes, Steve "Mr Clean" Hewlett, formerly of Channel 4, noted at a Royal Television Society debate this week, independent producers — small, underfinanced, often staffed by untrained people — are expected to uphold the dignity of television: "If a commissioning editor asks for green leopards and red bananas, someone will come along and deliver it . . . 60 per cent of programmes are oversold and underdelivered."

■ THE Royal Television Society debate heard about all sorts of scams. A recent BBC wildlife programme fronted by Sir David Attenborough about polar bears, with a sequence of him talking about a polar giving birth deep beneath the Arctic crust, actually fed into the "emotional truth" of a mummy bear, in labour. . . at a comfy Belgian zoo. A sharp-eyed *Times* reader, Joyce Woodcock, wrote to say how she watched BBC highlights from the Melbourne tennis tournament, with commentary by Sue Barker against skyscrapers, only to see her reporting on the European skating championships with a view of Prague's bridges and spires in the background 45 minutes later. "Now I call that cheating," she says.

■ WHAT do A.A. Gill, Victor Lewis-Smith, Charlie Catchpole, Peter Paterson, Tony Purnell, Brian Viner, Ian Parker, Paul Hoggart, Desmond Christie, Matthew Bond, Christopher Dunkley, Robert Hanks, Joe Joseph and Andrew Billen have in common? They all write television reviews for national newspapers or weeklies. And they're all men.

Nancy Banks-Smith still pops up at *The Guardian*. Allison Pearson was a great critic and Jaci Stephen, soon to become *The Mail on Sunday*'s new critic, is on top form ... but there's a real sexual imbalance here. Do men write best about television? Or just get the jobs?

Much the same pertains in film. Peter Bradshaw, the talented *Evening Standard* writer who penned "Alan Clarke's Diaries", is joining *The Guardian* as film critic, replacing Richard Williams, who replaced Derek Malcolm. It's all down to the power structure of newspapers, I suspect.



■ AS IT edges on to the March relaunch pad, *The Mail on Sunday* is gaining an entirely new centre features section and a revamped *Night & Day* magazine under a new editor, Christena Appleyard. Dubbed "TV Times" by insiders, it promises to be more glamorous and less laddish than the current product. Once it is safely airborne, the Editor-in-Chief, Paul Dacre, will turn his attention to London's *Evening Standard*.

■ THE reporting of BSkyB's results by dry City journalists left out a key detail: the forthcoming television-based Internet service will be operated with a £30 keyboard, like a laptop crossed with a remote control, allowing you to tap in short e-mails. With seven e-mail addresses per set, this will be a kids' delight. At last parents will be able to use their phones.

With BSkyB promising one million digital homes by next October, I wonder how long ITV can refuse to join. In two thirds of Sky Digital homes ITV is watched less because of the bore of switching back to analogue.

■ CHERIE BOOTH recently hosted a launch event for The Community Channel, chaired by Barry Cox, the Blairs' former neighbour and the deputy chairman of Channel 4. Tony floated in during the proceedings, too. The aim is to twist £3.5 million from business sponsors for the Media Trust's idea of giving charities their own digital television network.

■ LAST week I reported that five main commercial radio operators are fuming at the way the Radio Authority, now issuing three to four new station licences a month, is cutting them out. Tony Stoller, the authority's chief executive, points out that last Friday an Emap-backed group won the coveted new Central Scotland licence and Chrysalis won the North East licence last year, while GWR is a shareholder in a small new licence for the Solent.

But my main point stands. The big groups want the chairman, Sir Peter Gibbings, whose term ends this year, to be replaced.

■ A FIRST for *Radio Times*? Its front cover this week is given over to the Brit Awards . . . on ITV. Given that it is a BBC-owned magazine, I thought that it was supposed to give top billing only to its own programmes.

...watch

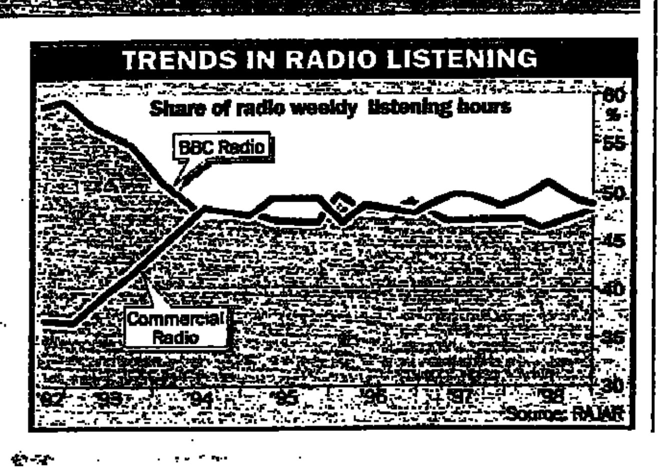
RADIO listening figures for the fourth quarter of 1998 show that the gap between commercial and BBC radio is closing.

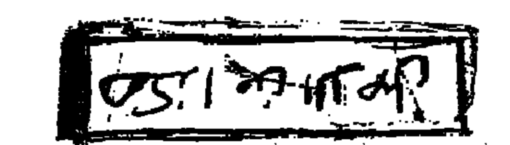
According to Rajar, the audience research organisation, commercial radio has 49.3 per cent of the listening share to the BBC's 48.5 per cent. In the fourth quarter of 1997, commercial radio led the BBC by 49.5 per cent to 47.9 per cent.

The weekly reach of all BBC stations rose by 0.6 per cent to 26.7 million in the fourth quarter of 1998. Commercial radio's overall weekly reach also increased, by 0.2 per cent to 28.5 million.

However, the national commercial stations' reach fell by 4.9 per cent to 11.18 million, while local commercial stations increased their reach by 1.4 per cent to 23.77 million.

● *MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575).*







Jesse Armstrong, left, and Sam Bain, the unknown writers behind ITV's new sitcom *Days Like These*. "In America, entering a career of sitcom writing is like going into the City"

Comedy the American way

Can two British unknowns and American comedy experts produce a much-needed hit for ITV? **Rajan Datar** reports

It's straight out of an episode of *Seinfeld*. Two chancers with scarcely a crumb of sitcom-writing experience between them get a call out of the blue to go to a swish hotel to meet the bosses of an American TV comedy hothouse.

The execs are looking for raw and fresh talent to work on one of their shows. Our two heroes, whose sole on-air credits are a few gags for a breakfast show presenter, are so nervous that they can scarcely totter along the pavement to the hotel. Outside the hotel suite they notice a bundle of unsolicited scripts submitted by some of the biggest names in comedy writing. They take a huge gulp of air and knock on the door . . .

That's the situation Sam Bain from West London and Jesse Armstrong from Shropshire found themselves in last June. Their meeting was with the chiefs of Carsey-Werner, creators of the *Cosby Show* and *Roseanne*, and the project was a £2.5 million adaptation for British TV of an American sitcom, *That 70's Show*.

"We had no idea how to pitch ourselves," admits Armstrong. "We didn't know whether they wanted us to say 'Wow, we love the original so much that we're not going to change any of the lines', or 'We love the characters so much that we're going to rewrite the whole thing'."

They ended up adopting a middle position, which is evidently what the Americans wanted because Armstrong and Bain got the job. "I think it helped that we laughed hard — very hard — at all their jokes," says Bain candidly.

Nine months down the line, *Days Like These* is ready to be unleashed on a British audience, with the first episode making a prime-time appearance on the ITV network tonight. The show, set in a 1976 pre-punk period of decaying hippiedom, focuses on a group of bored, sexually obsessed teenagers and their relationships.

On the basis of watching one early episode, I have to say that it is not very good. On a good day, the overall impression would be knowing, ironic, post-modern even. On a bad day the programme resembles nothing more than a British *Brady Bunch*.

But even if my view were to be shared by the great British viewing public, there are two reasons why this show may avoid the comedy dustbin. First, because of the unprecedented investment of faith and cash. The show has, unusually, been granted a first run of 13 programmes — twice the normal length for a debut sitcom, which may allow time for the characters to establish themselves with a core audience. And secondly because Armstrong and Bain are, in effect, the guinea-pigs in a new Anglo-American experiment in nurturing comedy-writing talent.

It involves Carsey-Werner, American veterans of the team-writing approach (used to write *Friends*, *Frasier* and *Seinfeld*) being hired by ITV's Network Director, David Liddiment, to deliver a much-needed hit. They choose to co-opt two inexperienced twentysomethings to translate their scripts to a British audience rather than using their own seasoned American professionals to do the job.

At Armstrong's Clapham flat, the affable duo explain to me that this is the first step in a process of learning their craft — an opportunity that has never been afforded to other fledgeling British writers. "In the US," says Bain, "entering a career of sitcom writing is like going into the City — you can earn a heck of a lot of money." Armstrong elucidates: "There's a career structure there — you join the team, you do your 'spec script', you become a baby writer and then you work your way up to become a head writer on a show such as *Seinfeld*. It's a career option. Whereas here, up till now, you had to make up your own rules. We have been put in a position because at an early stage in our career we're getting to learn all about the production of the show. We have got a chance to become British baby writers."

Apart from enjoying Carsey-Werner's patronage, their scripts for *Days Like These* are in the safe hands of Bob Spiers and John Bartlett, veteran makers of such British comedy hits as *Fawlty Towers*, *Absolutely Fabulous* and *Goodnight Sweetheart*.

The intention is to create a mainstream hit, something that British TV has been lacking, say Bain and Armstrong. "The problem with British sitcom is that there's a schism between not very good mainstream stuff and these pockets of inspiration on late-night BBC2 and Channel 4, such as *Alan Partridge* and *Father Ted*, which are cult hits. What we're trying to do is redefine the mainstream."

If nothing else, Bain and Armstrong, who met on a creative writing course at Manchester University, are refreshingly optimistic. In this way they do resemble the "Ivy Leaguers" in the US — the smart college graduates who make up so many of the junior ranks of hit-show comedy writing teams across the Atlantic. Apparently it was this same kind of "can do" attitude that endeared them to Carsey-Werner in the first place.

Long-haired, bespectacled and the more laid-back of the two, Bain has attempted to write a novel, which he admits "didn't get anywhere", while temping as a secretary. Armstrong, meanwhile, worked for the Labour Party before falling victim to the party's success — his position as Doug Henderson's assistant was supplanted by a civil servant when the MP became Minister for the Armed Forces after the election.

They came together again, writing gags for Johnny Vaughan on the *Big Breakfast Show* as well as material for *Not the Jack Docherty Show* on Channel 5. If all goes well, Armstrong and Bain hope the next series of *Days Like These* will be commissioned as a 22-parter which will bring it in line with the American model, although the aim is not to base the new episodes so much on existing storylines. Did they resent, just a little, having to studiously follow the exact structure of the American version for the first series?

"Oh no, we're very pleased and a lot more wealthy than we were last year. And if people don't like it, we can just say that it wasn't our idea!"

● Days Like These *begins at 8.30pm tonight on ITV.*

Giving the past a future

Raymond Snoddy on the salvation of History Today

The popular historical magazine *History Today*, which broke such stories as the "mercy killing" of George V, has been saved for posterity for the second time.

The three private shareholders who own the magazine, which was founded in 1951 by Brendan Bracken, the chairman of the *Financial Times*, have decided to forgo the £1 million they might have received for it through a sale. Instead, they are to set up an educational trust and, over time, the shareholders' rights will be extinguished without financial competition.

"It would have been possible to sell the magazine to a 'good home', but publishing groups are subject to takeover and to sudden swings in philosophy," Hugh Stephenson told readers of the current issue in a statement on behalf of the owners.

Mr Stephenson, a former Editor of the *New Statesman*, is one of the three shareholders. The others are John Jackson, the chairman of the leisure group Ladbroke and of the law firm Mishcon de Reya, and Jerry Kuehl, an American television producer.

"What we have done, we have done with our eyes open," says Mr Stephenson.

The three bought *History Today* from Pearson, the owners of the *Financial Times*, for £1 in 1981. Longman, the Pearson subsidiary that published the magazine, had tried to sell it and failed, and the closure date had been set.

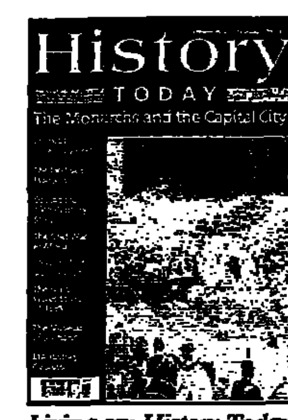
Soon after the magazine was released from the overheads of a large group, Mr Stephenson says, it became profitable. Its premises were above a pornography shop, now a restaurant, in Soho.

In 1997 the little company, which also publishes *History Review*, a publication aimed at A-level history students, made a profit of £63,000 on a turnover of £921,000, and similar profits are expected for 1998 when accounts are finalised. Since the three took over, *History Today's* circulation has grown from 10,000 to more than 30,000.

Over the years the glossy, well-illustrated publication has had many stories that have made headlines in the national press. Perhaps the most dramatic was that of George V. In 1986 *History Today* published the notes of Lord Dawson, the King's doctor, disclosing that the King's death was hastened by a lethal injection, not only to ease pain but to enable the news to make the morning papers "rather than the less appropriate evening journals". Dawson advised the Editor of *The Times* to stand by for late news and, next morning, *The Times* headline proclaimed "A peaceful ending at midnight".

The current issue reveals that Leopold Amery, the Conservative politician who was instrumental in bringing down Chamberlain's Government in 1940, had hidden the fact that his mother was Jewish. The magazine notes that despite concealing his Jewish identity, he nevertheless supported Jewish causes whenever he could.

Other articles in the current issue range from a review of the first sex manuals, to the Cold War in Africa and education in the 15th century. The magazine has also taken part in the debate about the teaching of history at university and whether "pick and mix" degrees that deal with many discreet topics produce graduates who lack background knowledge on the history of Western civilisation.



Living on: *History Today*

Since January 1998, *History Today* has been edited by Peter Furtado with a staff of eight.

The three owners, who are all in their sixties, were worried about the "uncertainties" that would be created if one of their number died and the shares passed to someone else who might not be greatly interested in the future of the magazine.

The first meeting of the History Today Trust will be held this month, with the three shareholders as the only three trustees. The aim is to appoint additional trustees later this year. Voting rights and effective ownership will gradually pass to the new trust until it has 100 per cent control.

Mr Jackson said that taking on the magazine had been "a genuine act of conservation" which had given a lot of pleasure and had been a financial success.

Metro editor sacked before launch

TRADE digest

■ TURMOIL at *Metro*, the new free paper for London planned by Associated Newspapers. The Editor, Kim Chapman, has been forced to step down less than a month before the launch, to be replaced by Ian McGregor, an assistant editor on the *Daily Mail*. **Press Gazette** reports that Paul Dacre, Associated's Editor-in-Chief, thought that Chapman's dummies were not sophisticated enough for the target market of under-35 commuters. She was hired for the project from the *Reading Evening Post*, where she had been Editor.

■ THE Radio Authority is under fresh attack for the way it awards licences, **Broadcast** reports. Five failed bidders for licences in Hampshire wrote this week to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, complaining of "political influence" in the awards, one of which went to a company headed by a local MP. After complaints that other awards were handled improperly, Janet Leet, the RA's deputy head of programming, was suspended in December.

■ THE telephone services watchdog Icstis is to clamp down on ads for phone sex services in men's magazines. **Marketing Week** says the committee is to rule whether some of the ads in titles such as *loaded* and *FHM* are unsuitable in magazines that are not kept on the newsagents' top shelves. If the complaints are upheld, the phone service providers — not the magazines — could be fined.

■ COMMERCIALLY sponsored Christmas lights may be barred from London's West End after complaints about last year's displays, says **Marketing Week**. Westminster City Council has asked traders to seek new means of funding because the Tango and Bird's Eye logos offended shoppers.

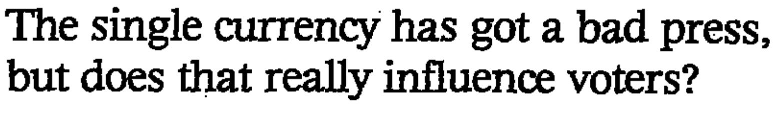
■ REVAMPS/RELAUNCHES: *The Mail on Sunday* reorganises its magazines and adds review section to attract young readers (**Media Week**). *Yorkshire Post* gets extra pages and new typography; *The Express on Sunday* reverts to its former title, *Sunday Express*; National Magazines' *Home* repositioned in middle market to compete directly with *House Beautiful* (**Press Gazette**).

■ CHANGING FACES: Martin Sixsmith, a former BBC reporter, leaves the DSS to head media relations at GEC; Anne Leroy-Sanguinetti, of the Paris HQ of Air France, will be communications manager in London (**PR Week**). Liz Jones leaves *The Sunday Times* to edit *Marie Claire*; Richard Brooks of *The Observer* is to be arts editor of *The Sunday Times*; Eric Bailey leaves *The Sunday Telegraph* to be executive editor of *The Mail on Sunday* (**Press Gazette**). Kevin Shute of Mills & Allen joins CIA Medianetwork as business development director (**Media Week**).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters wins BhS creative account from Saatchi & Saatchi; Craik Jones is to handle marketing for Rover's Mini (**Campaign**). Banking group HSBC appoints Lowe & Partners Worldwide for its £150 million global ad account; WCRS awarded £4.5 million account by BUPA (**Marketing**).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

The euro is still off-message



The single currency has got a bad press, but does that really influence voters?

ALTHOUGH most of Britain's national daily newspapers have waged an often xenophobic campaign against European monetary union, an opinion poll in *The Guardian* yesterday showed that support for joining the euro in Britain has "surged" to its highest level.

ICM found that 52 per cent remain in the Eurosceptic camp but that the number who would vote yes in a referendum has jumped by seven points in the past month to 36 per cent.

That poll and a new research study published this week by Carma (Computer Aided Research and Media Analysis, whose clients include BT, British Airways, Microsoft and Coca-Cola) raise again the intriguing question of whether voters are influenced by what they read in their newspapers.

Brian MacArthur
PAPER ROUND

The usual answer is that any link between newspaper campaigns and voting has never been proved — but most of us believe in our bones, as do their editors, that the relentlessly hostile spin on euro stories in *The Sun* and *Mail* must surely influence how some of their readers vote.

That spin is the main theme of the Carma study, which analysed 1,695 articles in the British national press and 1,702 in the French national press between May and January. Its conclusion is that the spin on the euro in British newspapers obscured the crucial issues involved in the launch of the euro, especially for businesses.

Sandra Macleod, the European managing director of Carma, says that the euro has been a "political football", with newspapers focused on the debate over whether to join instead of driving home the crucial messages that would have enabled voters and businesses to be better prepared and informed.

"If a newspaper's primary function is to inform, several in the UK concentrated too much on backing their own political horses while doing very little to shed proper light on a subject about which there is still great ignorance, to the detriment of their readers," the report says.

The *FT*, *International Herald Tribune* and *The Wall Street Journal* (Europe) shared with the French business press the most neutral and balanced coverage and devoted almost twice as much space to the euro.

The research showed that British broadsheets were more balanced than the tabloids (see table). *The Times* published 216 articles headlined EMU or Euro, and there were 217 in *The Daily Telegraph* (with the *Telegraph* alone accounting for one in five of William Hague's appearances).

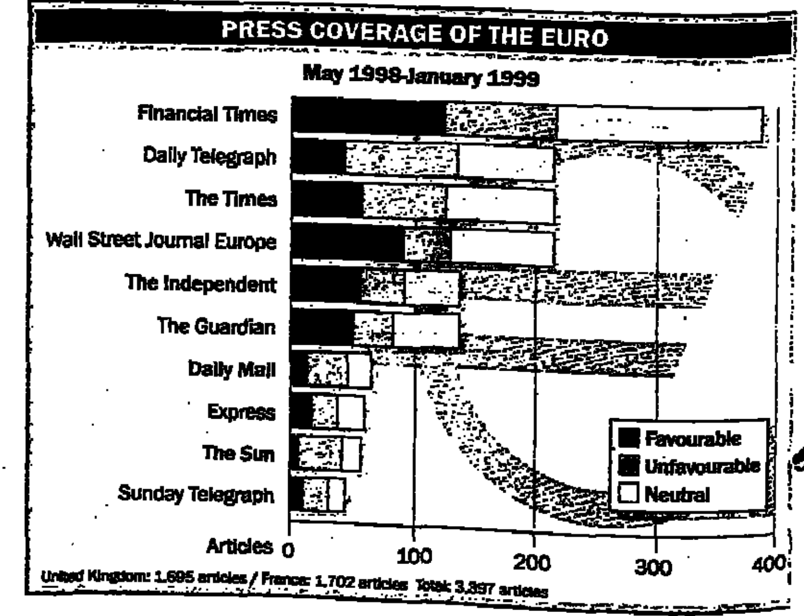
In *The Times*, 27 per cent were favourable to 32 per cent unfavourable; in *The Daily Telegraph* the ratio was 20 to 44. *The Independent* (40 to 26) and *The Guardian* (37 to 23) were more inclined to be favourable. The papers with the highest proportion of balanced coverage were the *FT* (44), *The Times* (41), *The Guardian* (40), *The Daily Telegraph* (36) and *The Independent* (34).

The contrast with the British tabloids was stark. Under its slogan "The Pound in Peril", *The Sun* has been the most hostile of the British newspapers. Out of 56 articles, only five per cent were construed as favourable against 68 per cent unfavourable, with the ratio in the *Daily Mail* at 14 to a sceptical 57. Even *The Express*, whose proprietor Lord Hollick is a noted European enthusiast, had twice as many unfavourable headlines as favourable.

Yesterday's *Guardian* poll showed that women were far more hostile to the euro than men and that opposition is strongest among working class semi-skilled and manual DE voters, a constituency where *The Sun* has 1.7 million readers and the *Mail* has 437,000. On its present course, *The Sun* will therefore be a powerful opponent of Tony Blair when he announces a referendum: only last month in a You the Jury poll, 12,000 *Sun* readers delivered a vote of 94 per cent against joining a single currency.

That opposition may explain why Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, told the Fabian Society this week that almost every political debate in Britain was conducted in terms that fostered illusion.

Europe was an issue that the British press painted in largely sensationalist terms, he said. "Illusion leads to disappointment leads to cynicism leads to a pessimistic sense that change is impossible."



Hands off Blue Peter

Blue Peter is far bigger than its presenters. It talks to children on their own terms and they love it, says **Maggie Brown**



Blue Peter presenters Konnie Huq, Stuart Miles and Katy Hill publicise the evergreen show's latest appeal

On Monday the departing *Blue Peter* presenter Stuart Miles tossed a mini hand grenade at this 40-year-old television treasure. A publicity stunt not entirely divorced from his search for a new job. He declared that the programme must become "more relevant, less twee, more hard-hitting".

He wants it to divorce itself for ever from the legacy of its greatest former editor, Biddy Baxter, still working part-time as an adviser for the BBC, whose spirit hovers over its staple items about animals, making things and aspiring to do good for others.

So what was the Miles recipe for *Blue Peter*'s survival in the new millennium? It should do more about drugs, eating disorders and bullying.

When I read his thoughts, two of the most repeatable words that popped into my head were "good riddance". But I write this article with two layers of knowledge. Although I am a busy media journalist, I am based at home and two of my children, aged five and nine, watch *Blue Peter*.

It is not perfect but it is on their wavelength. How do I know? Because they remember to turn it on week after week. And I see them acting on its suggestions. One key bit of evidence sits on my husband's bedside table. His Christmas present from the nine-year-old, a pot decorated with paper, was carefully crafted as instructed by a seasonal *Blue Peter* edition. The result is something that pocket money cannot buy.

But as a media journalist of 19 years' standing, I also watch the ratings and acknowledge that no programme can stand still.

This week *Blue Peter* gained a new editor, Steve Hocking, 37. We spoke soon after his appointment. He made it clear that he planned alterations. There have been extensive discussions within the BBC about evolutionary change to keep the programme fun, energetic and relevant.

Hocking's task is to ensure that it keeps faith with its audience, telling children that they can aspire to jump out of aeroplanes and to listen to classical music as well as pop.

As a former teacher, a father of three children and a school governor living in an Oxfordshire village, he is rooted. His vision is far removed from the trendy nonsense spouted by twenty-something presenters.

Hocking dislikes the move towards rebranding *Blue Peter* as *BP*. BP is now for petrol stations. He also told me that he planned regular "literary" slots. When I watched *Blue Peter* on Monday, there, on his first programme, was an item about the top-selling author J.K. Rowling.

On Wednesday night's programme, his second, came another initiative: children can win a *Blue Peter* badge by finding an interesting place in their locality and presenting an item about it: the first one was about a lighthouse.

What did Hocking think about the Miles agenda? "I feel quite angry about *Blue Peter* being branded twee and cautious. My feeling is that we [the BBC] make a lot of programmes which deal explicitly with these [drugs, bullying, etc] issues. But the seven to ten-year-old child [the target *Blue Peter* audience] is fully entitled to have a programme, whatever his or her domestic circumstances, that is positive and encourages them to have ambition.

"The items that children like most on *Blue Peter* are about cooking, making things and pets. I am quite prepared to aggressively defend the right of children to have a factual, entertaining magazine programme on their own terms."

Blue Peter has run an item on drugs on its own terms: it showed how sniffer dogs are used to find illegal hoards. It does review films, but bands appear only if they are prepared to sing live. And then there are the appeals: *Blue Peter* is currently collecting aluminium to help to build schools in Mozambique.

What crude ratings do not show is that the programme has extended its influence since 1996, with repeats at breakfast time on BBC2. It attracts 47 per cent of the child audience, against 7 per cent for *The Big Breakfast*. In the afternoon, it holds on to 36 per cent of children.

My biggest recent criticism relates to last year, when the presenter Richard Bacon was sacked for taking drugs. The head of children's programmes, Lorraine Heggessey, dressed in black, went on air as the programme started, to give an explanation.

I was in my study. The children rushed in. "Come quickly, we think someone has died," they said. The Richard Bacon morality tale went completely over their heads. This is because, despite folk memories of John Noakes, Valerie Singleton et al, *Blue Peter* presenters are not as important as they think they are.

The show, Stuart Miles, is the star.

The reason I had to buy a Volvo

Stefano Hatfield

Advertising took another pounding this week as Sainsbury's laid some of the blame for its poor profits announcement at the door of its John Cleese advertising campaign. There were also dark mutterings about Rover's advertising in the light of its slump in market share.

In the Sainsbury's case, there is little doubt that John Cleese hectoring us about the supermarket chain's low prices got up some viewers' noses. However, shoppers have not rejected the store. They have been coming through the doors — but once inside, they've been buying cheaper items. Funny that, since this was the theme of the ad campaign.

Rover's ads were panned last year for jumping on the "Cool Britannia" bandwagon with inappropriate products (the Rover 200 and 400) just as the bubble of that notion was about to burst. But it is impossible not to have some sympathy for Rover's ad agency as it searches for any special attributes on which to hang a campaign.

It is worth contrasting the muddled advertising of both Rover and Sainsbury's with the clarity of strategy and witty execution seen in a new ad campaign close to my heart — that for the restyled Volvo V40.

Actually, it was closer to my wallet than my heart when I bought a Volvo V40 estate last year. As someone who cannot tell his torque from his Torquemada, I accept that I am susceptible to the wiles of a clever car advertising campaign.

This time last year, though, the V40 had not been advertised. All I knew was that we had to bite the estate-car bullet. We'd had two babies in a year and could not fit the double buggy in the boot of our Volkswagen Golf (I know that is boring, but so many purchasing decisions are made for boring reasons).

I also knew that my wife held a deep-rooted anti-Volvo prejudice that came from growing up surrounded by "coffins on wheels" in the Cotswolds — and also that the new V40 had been voted the world's most beautiful estate car by an Italian car magazine (the ad agency told me).

But from advertising campaigns I had gleaned that the Audi A4 Avant was attractive and not too big, and was made by the company that advertises itself as a maker of yuppie cars for non-yuppies. So we went off to buy one of those.

What the ads did not say was that if you are 6ft 4in tall and the seat is adjusted to your driving position, you cannot fit a child seat in the space behind.

Dismayed, we turned to the Volkswagen Passat, born (so the ads told me) from the "obsession" of VW engineers, as reliable as all Volkswagens, and selling at a surprisingly ordinary price. Fine if you could wait from six to nine months for delivery. We could not.

So, with me arguing that Volvo had changed (remember all those wild Tony Kaye commercials?) we walked into a Volvo showroom. There we found a car as at home in Soho as in Burford; in which the child seat would fit snugly behind even my driving position — oh, and it had a safety cage and was £5,000 cheaper than the Audi.

Of course, none of this mattered. The salesman had begun by saying that the new V40 had been voted the most beautiful estate car in the world by an Italian car magazine. We didn't listen to another word he said and drove home smugly in a deep blue V40 with funky wheelcaps and heated seats. Please don't ask me how many litres the engine capacity is.

We then had to deal with the opprobrium heaped on our heads by single London friends and knowing Gloucestershire Volvo owners. That was until those lovely people at Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO came up with a series of television commercials.

In one ad, a dog idles down a street, peeing on hubcaps until it comes to the V40, which is too beautiful to pee on. In another we see a V40 parked outside a remote, snow-covered house in Sweden while the couple within try to make babies with which to fill the car.

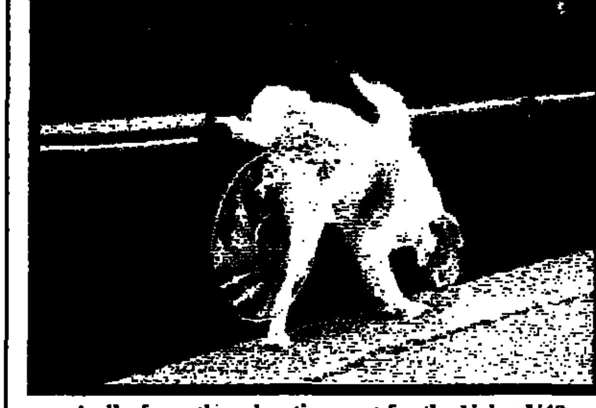
In a third, all we see are two headlights making their way serenely through a foggy landscape. The tagline is: "After all, looks aren't everything."

All three ads feature a small reminder that the Volvo V40 was judged "the most beautiful estate car in the world" by an Italian car magazine.

It just shows how slight an advertising idea can be and still work, and how vital it is that advertising contains a clearly communicable idea.

We may have bought our Volvo because the Passat was out of stock, the car seat fitted and it was five grand cheaper than the Audi, but no one now need ever know.

We may be covered in nappy cream and baby sick; and we may only need to buy a car because of a double buggy, and have *The wheels on the Bus* on a loop in the car stereo, but we can be as shallow as anyone else. Goddammit.



A clip from the advertisement for the Volvo V40

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign

How do you film sudden death?

Ian Taylor, director of a new series on Birmingham's coroner, spent 12 weeks with dead bodies and grieving relatives

At the end of the cul-de-sac is a police car. Behind it officers stand in the doorway of a semi. All around the close, neighbours are watching a curtained window. It's the front bedroom. Inside, a man has hanged himself.

I'm there with a film crew, about to go in. No, this is not a docusoap but *The Coroner*, a serious, old-fashioned documentary for Channel 4. We're following the work of the Birmingham Coroner and are about to enter the house with his officer to see the deceased.

> 'We don't look too closely at the hanged man'

I'm thinking many things at once — some professional, some selfish. Professionally, I'm aware that we are crossing boundaries. There will be questions asked about what is acceptable, about what is or is not in good taste. Selfishly, I'm thinking something quite different: Do I really want to see this? Isn't this the stuff of nightmares? And what kind of voyeur does it make me? Seeing dead bodies is one thing; to see someone who has hanged himself is like being a witness to the act of death itself.

But there isn't a lot of time to think and we follow the officers into the room. The cameraman knows the rules, drawn up over months of negotiation with the Birmingham Coroner, Dr Richard Whittington. No shots of bodies, save an occasional glimpse of a hand or foot to show that there is actually something there. We have our own rules, too, when it comes to suicides — no shots that might indicate how the suicide was carried out (for fear of copycats). In this case it is, fortunately, impossible to work out how it was done, even though you can see a rope tied to a door handle. We don't look too closely and just film what we have come to film — the coroner's officer at work.

Like all such officers (there are eight in Birmingham, who investigate on behalf of the Coroner) Stephanie Stephens is a former police officer. She is matter-of-fact in her questioning of the policeman in the eerie presence of the hanged man. This is not the first suicide she has come across. She waits for the coroner's undertakers to take the body away. When they arrive they are friendly and efficient. They collect up to 15 corpses a day, from houses, from hospitals, from road accidents.

They take down the body, empty the pockets and pack the corpse in a bag, the rope still around its neck. (The pathologist will remove it at the post-mortem examination.)

It is only because of changing attitudes to death that we are filming this at all. In the Sixties I was shocked, when travelling abroad, to see in a newspaper the photograph of a road accident victim. Back home this would have been unthinkable. Today, forget your road accident victim; you can see real carnage in a news report from Kosovo.

Whether it is an advance is debatable, but in this case it has given us the opportunity to show for the first time the work of an important public service that, because it deals with a distasteful subject, has in effect remained a secret. It surprised me to learn that, in matters of death, it is the coroner, not the police, who provides citizens with greater protection against injustice.

The law requires all deaths for which a cause cannot be given to be reported to the coroner, who then has a legal obligation to try to ascertain the cause of death. This reinforces the role of the police, who investigate a death only where there are signs, or suspicions, of foul play.

The broad scope of the coroner's remit means that our cases are remarkably varied — in a 17th-floor flat an old woman has lain dead for a month; a man is murdered by a stranger he brings home from the pub; a baby girl is found suffocated.

We filmed for 12 weeks and could not prepare anything in advance. This was observational filming at its most risky. Who would agree to be filmed? For most relatives the first visit to the coroner's office is formally to identify the body. It was often on this visit that we were obliged to make our approach with a request to film.

In retrospect I'm astonished at the number of families who agreed. The first approach would always be made by the Coroner's officer. If the relative agreed to meet me, I would then explain the purpose of the series. If they agreed to be filmed, we would go ahead there and then but would not assume that this represented permission to broadcast. They were then given time to consider (and withdraw) before signing a release, usually about a week later.

We accepted that any participant who had later had a change of mind could withdraw at any time up until the films were passed for transmission. One family chose to do so. Although the film was finished, their contribution was removed without protest and the film recut.

Why did people agree to be filmed? One family lost a 19-year-old son in a road accident. The parents agreed to donate his organs and felt that the publicity might produce some small good out of such a dreadful loss. They were well rewarded. The boy's aunt, who represented them at the inquest, ends that film with the most compelling advocacy for organ donorship I have heard. Another family had a grievance — a man with a history of mental illness had committed suicide in prison. He should have been in hospital, the family say. They feel the inquest denies them justice and feel that the publicity might help.

As to the rest, one can only guess. Perhaps they felt that the recording of events somehow gave weight to them, lent occasion to something that might too soon be forgotten. Even the mother of the hanged man gave permission for the scene in the bedroom to be filmed. She was shown at the inquest sitting alone in a small room away from the main waiting area. She was ushered into court by a side door, anxious to avoid other family members who somehow held her responsible. In the event they abused her in the courtroom. Perhaps she just wanted us on her side. We were.



Peter Acland, a Home Office pathologist, investigates the cause of death

● *The first episode of* The Coroner *will be on Channel 4 on Tuesday at 9pm.*

First mag for old new lads

Later will begin where Loaded left off, says **Raymond Snoddy**

Today, IPC Magazines will announce its biggest launch since last year's management buyout — a magazine for the lads from *Loaded* and *FHM* who have finally grown up. The new magazine, to be launched in the spring, will be called *Later* and have a marketing budget of more than £2.5 million.

IPC, sold off by the international information group Reed Elsevier, believes it revolutionised the young men's market in 1994 with the launch of *Loaded* and hopes to do so again.

The publishing director of *Later*, Andy McDuff, is the man who launched *Loaded* — a magazine aimed at "hedonistic young men who like to have 12 pints of lager and a kebab".

IPC chief Mike Matthew

The new magazine will still be "sexy and entertaining" but will also recognise that now those readers are older, jobs are turning into careers and permanent relationships are starting to intrude.

The idea was brought to IPC by Phil Hilton, who edited *Men's Health* and will now edit *Later*.

The men's magazine market, which has existed for less than a decade, has shown phenomenal growth, fuelled by the launch not just of *Loaded* but also of magazines such as *FHM* and *Maxim*. *Maxim* has already crossed the Atlantic and *FHM* is likely to follow later this year.

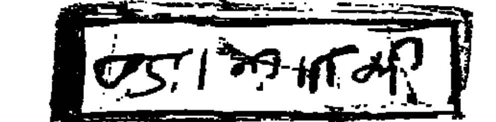
Since 1995, the number of copies sold in the sector has more than doubled to 1.5 million a month. The sector's annual retail value has risen to £76 million.

The existing readership is predominantly in the 18 to 24 age group. The prize for IPC could be considerable if it managed to "reach the elusive older audience".

The target market for *Later* will be 25 to 40-year-old men, and IPC claims that it will offer "a fresh agenda for men entering a new phase in their lives".

IPC, under chief executive Mike Matthew, believes that no existing magazine fills such a gap, and that both the concept and dummies of *Later* have researched well.

Later will be the second big consumer magazine launch so far this year. Earlier this month, Emap came out with one of its biggest launches — the £5 million entertainment and listings magazine *Heat*.



media times

Programmes that make a difference

Documentaries are under fire but Roger Graef has confidence in his. By **Frances Gibb**

the media interview

Timing, Roger Graef believes, is all. Had it not been for what he calls an "accident of timing", female rape victims could still be facing insensitive handling by police. But his landmark documentary series on Thames Valley Police was broadcast in the early Eighties at a moment when rape was top of the news agenda: and the film proved a catalyst for changing police practice. Without that coincidence, the film might have disappeared without trace. As it was, it changed public policy.

Now he hopes the timing is right a second time. His three-part series *In Search of Law and Order*, which targets the criminal justice system and how it deals with young offenders, is being screened on Channel 4, with the second programme going out on Sunday.

"For a long time the debate has been driven by a simplified notion of what crime is and what makes people offend," he says. "Everyone likes having scapegoats . . . and the notion that individuals are evil and that punishing them hard enough will stop both them and others has a wonderful neatness to it."

The media have played their part, he says. "Playing on people's fears sells newspapers."

The law and legal system is straitjacketed in its approach, often because there is no alternative, he says. "Judges know that their sentences are often pointless. They have no expectation that prison will rehabilitate, but in a climate that believes 'prison works', they can do little else."

Three in four young offenders locked up are reconvicted within three years, he says. "So we send them away at the cost of sending them to Eton, and it fails. Punishment means something to you and me. But with these kids, the threat of punishment means much less. They are punished all the time. They are punished by the very situation they are in; their parents often beat hell out of them. And the biggest predictor of crime is harsh, erratic parenting."

So, over five years, between books and other films (a recent production was the acclaimed *Keeping it in the Family: What Shall We Do About James?*), Graef toured the United States and countries in Europe to find ways of dealing with young criminals other than by locking them up.

The series focuses on successful work in three cities, Forth Worth, in Texas, Boston, Massachusetts, and Richmond, in California. In Boston, prosecutors have forged an alliance of schools, churches and former offenders in what is called Operation Nightlight to try to reduce juvenile killings. In Texas, there are schemes for supporting the families of juveniles on probation whose fathers are in prison. In Richmond, the local health centre and schools hire former gang members to work with children and battered young mothers.

Graef admits that, in television terms, "selling" good works is not as easy as depicting violence or crime. Arousing interest in the series was initially hard, so he made it first for the American market.

But the political climate in Britain has changed. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has talked of the need for society to look at the roots of crime, break the cycle of deprivation and introduce better community alternatives to imprisonment.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has already seen Graef's series, and extracts from it will be used at the launch of his youth offending teams on March 8. The idea is that these teams will put up schemes which the Youth Justice Board can finance with an £85 million development fund.

The timing, Graef admits, is again fortuitous. Politicians, judges and others in the criminal justice system are already onside. But his programmes still need to create the right climate of support among the public. "My message is that you can't leave the problem of what to do with young offenders to the justice system. It is an inadequate tool to deal with the problem: it is looking at punishing people for the past, not at dealing with the future."

He hopes to bring home to those who "pontificate in their pubs and clubs what the world for young offenders is actually like". More than that, he hopes the concrete examples of what can be done with such offenders will change attitudes. "I have had letters from people who have seen the programmes. One man said that he wondered 'What has this to do with me?' Then, by the end, he knew what it had to do with him."

● In Search of Law and Order. *Channel 4. Sunday, February 14 and 21.*

ANDRE CAMARA



Roger Graef: investigating alternatives to locking up young offenders

How Campbell aims to divide and rule

Raymond Snoddy

To criticise Downing Street press spokesmen for trying to get positive coverage for their bosses and then attacking the media when they don't is as pointless as condemning cats for chasing mice. Naturally the spokesmen want to persuade the press to follow the official agenda — rather than leaving reporters to indulge, as Alastair Campbell put it this week, their "obsession with trivia, travel expenses, comment and soap opera".

It would, of course, be trivial to observe that Campbell's attack on the media for its lack of seriousness came just after his search for profound political coverage took Tony Blair to *This Morning* with Richard and Judy to discuss holidays and the future of Glenn Hoddle. Nothing new there. Margaret Thatcher's favourite media outlet was the *Jimmy Young Show* on Radio 2.

Yet Campbell's lecture this week at the Fabian Society did contain a number of serious points, some more serious than others. Blair's chief spin-doctor believes that the broadcast media still allow their agenda to be set for them by newspapers that have become ever more cynical and less and less willing to cover the important political debates of the day.

Therefore, Campbell believes, it is time for broadcasters to create their own agenda free of the poisonous influence of the press. He wants to see a divorce between the print and the broadcast media. "Live media is where it's at," Campbell believes, and no one will be surprised to learn that the live broadcasting he has in mind for politicians is the opportunity to appear live, unedited and largely unchallenged. What he has in mind is not robust political interviewing but an endless succession of party political broadcasts.

A polite smile is the only sensible response to Campbell's broadcasting demands except on two issues. Sometimes the robustness of the questions, particularly on the *Today* programme, descends into rude, persistent interrupting that disrupts the flow of ideas, prevents sentences from being completed and adds nothing to human understanding. The second issue was the BBC's disgraceful decision to dump a modest segment of edited but uninterrupted coverage of the House of Commons, *Yesterday in Parliament*, on to long wave, where few will hear it.

Campbell's much more interesting point is whether broadcasters could or should develop their own agenda rather than following that set by the newspapers. The idea is superficially attractive. Wouldn't it be nice to have contrasting views of the world rather than having to watch the different branches of the media play games of tag? It is also wholly impractical. It is no coincidence that despite all the immediacy of broadcasting and its ability to show events, such as natural disasters, it is so often newspapers that dig out the stories that change things for good or ill.

It is partly a matter of resources and time. The national press represents one of the largest bodies of journalists in the UK, and although daily deadlines seem challenging to those involved, they are positively luxurious to those working in often underfunded 24-hour electronic newsrooms. For many specialist bi-media BBC journalists, life can be an exhausting round of rushing from microphone to camera, feeding one outlet after another with instant reaction. To think that such people can devote days to digging out a unique story of their own, or establishing their own agenda, is a tall order.

The cumbersome nature of the medium also means that, unless they are very lucky, broadcasters will not get the most important stories. Someone who wants to leak a confidential document is unlikely to rush before the cameras to be identified doing so.

The age of 24-hour broadcast news has helped to create a more unified news culture in the past few years. In every broadcast newsroom every national newspaper is mined routinely as a source of stories — and 24-hour TV news channels are watched on every newspaper newsdesk for breaking stories. The chain of news, reaction and counter-reaction is now seamless and unbreakable and that is why it is now often only a matter of days before the breaking of a "scandal" and the departure of the errant politician or football manager. The combined firepower of both press and broadcast media aimed at one subject can be awesome — which is probably why Campbell is trying to drive a wedge between the two. He would have more chance of success standing as a Labour candidate in Huntingdon.

But at least when his spinning days are over Alastair Campbell sounds as if he may be able to make a decent living as a newspaper columnist and TV political commentator.

Setting conditions is development consent

Regina v North Yorkshire County Council, Ex parte Brown and Another

Before Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches February 11]

The setting of conditions, under section 22 of and Schedule 2 to the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, by a mineral planning authority upon the continued operation of a quarry, worked under a 1947 deemed planning permission, was a development consent for the purposes of article 2.1 of Council Directive (85/337/EEC) (OJ 1985 L175/40), which required an environmental impact assessment to be made before consent was given for projects likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Since the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations (SI 1988 No 1199), which established the criteria for England and Wales for identifying those projects whose characteristics were such as to require an assessment, applied only to grants of planning permission, it was for the secretary of state to establish like criteria for decisions under the 1991 Act.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by North Yorkshire County Council from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Pill) (*The Times* February 9, 1998; [1998] Env LR 385) allowing an appeal by Marilyn Brown and Lesley Cartwright from the dismissal by Mr Justice Hidden ([1997] Env LR 391) of their motion for judicial review of the council's decision to set conditions for the continued working of a quarry at Preston-under-Scar without having conducted an environmental impact assessment.

Mr Timothy Straker, QC and Mr Philip Kolvin for the council; Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr William Birtles for the respondents.

LORD HOFFMANN said that Preston-under-Scar was a village in North Yorkshire, designated as a conservation area. Near the village was Wensley Quarry, from which limestone had been extracted for many years.

Planning permission was granted in 1947. That old permission was not subject to any time limit or conditions. It allowed quarrying not merely in the existing quarry but over some 322 hectares of the surrounding countryside.

Old mining permissions such as that for Wensley Quarry existed in many parts of the country. In a time of greater environmental consciousness, of which the Directive was one manifestation, they gave rise to two kinds of problem.

First, there was no register from which their existence could be discovered. A register of planning applications was first introduced in 1947 but did not record earlier permissions which were deemed to continue.

So the commencement or resumption of mining or quarrying sometimes came as an unpleasant surprise to people who had bought property in the area many years after the permission had been granted.

Second, the old permissions were frequently, as in the case of Wensley Quarry, indefinite in duration and subject to no conditions for the protection of the local environment, such as limits on hours of working, noise, vibrations, dust emissions and so on.

Section 22 of and Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act had addressed both those points.

It required the owners of land with the benefit of old mining permissions to apply to the local mineral planning authority for their registration within six months of September 25, 1991.

If they did not do so, the permission ceased to have effect. If they applied in time and the mineral planning authority was satisfied that the permission existed, it was obliged to grant the application. By that means, a register of all extant permissions was created.

Once the application for registration had been granted, the owner of the land became entitled to apply to the mineral planning authority to determine the conditions to which the permission was to be subject.

If no application was made within the stipulated period, the permission ceased to have effect. The authority was given a very wide discretion to impose conditions for the protection of the environment.

The imposition of conditions upon the exercise of a planning permission usually took place concomitantly with the grant of the permission.

Section 22 was, so far as his Lordship was aware, *unique in* United Kingdom planning law in conferring a general duty upon planning authorities to consider whether to impose conditions upon a class of planning permissions which might have subsisted untrammelled for half a century.

Could it be said that the decision imposing the conditions was a "decision of the competent authority ... which entitles the developer to proceed with the project" the definition of a "development consent" in the Directive?

The imposition of conditions was not a decision that the developer should be entitled to proceed. Mr Straker was quite right in saying that the source of the developer's right to proceed with the project was and remained the planning permission of 1947, even after conditions had been imposed.

On the other hand, the developer could not proceed unless the planning authority had determined the appropriate conditions. So although the determination did not decide whether the developer might proceed but only the manner in which he might proceed, it was nevertheless a necessary condition for his being entitled to proceed at all.

That was sufficient to bring it within the European concept of a development consent. The purpose of the Directive was to ensure that planning decisions which might affect the environment were made on the basis of full information. It had a wide scope and a broad purpose.

A decision as to the conditions under which a quarry could be operated could have a very important effect on the environment. It could protect it by imposing limits on *noise, vibration and dust, requiring* the preservation of important natural habitats or the reinstatement of damage to the landscape and in many other ways.

The Directive did not apply to decisions which involved merely the detailed regulation of activities for which the principal consent, raising the substantial environmental issues, had already been given.

But the procedure created by the 1991 Act was not merely a detailed regulation of a project in respect of which the substantial environmental issues had already been considered.

Its purpose was to give the mineral planning authority a power to assess the likely environmental effects of old mining permissions which had been granted without, to modern ways of thinking, any serious consideration of the environment at all.

It was true that the power to deal with those effects was limited to the imposition of conditions rather than complete prohibition. But the procedure was nevertheless a new and freestanding examination of the issues and could therefore require the information provided by an environmental impact assessment. It was therefore a "development consent" within the meaning of the Directive.

That did not mean that the council was necessarily obliged to undertake an assessment. That depended upon whether it took the view that the characteristics of the decision required one.

It was for the secretary of state to establish the criteria for making that decision, as he had done for planning permissions in the 1988 Regulations, and for the council to apply those criteria.

Lord Nicholls, Lord Goff, Lord Jauncey and Lord Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Rees & Freres for Mr Richard Daly, Northallerton; Richard Buxton, Cambridge.

Power to hear academic appeals not exercised

Regina v Secretary of State *for the Home Department*, Ex parte Salem

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches February 11]

The House of Lords had a discretion to hear an appeal where there was an issue involving a public authority as to a question of public law even if by the time the appeal reached the House there was no longer a lis to be decided that would directly affect the rights and obligations of the parties inter se, but the discretion had to be exercised with caution and academic appeals should not be heard unless there was a good reason in the public interest for doing so.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Fathi Saleh Salem from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Brooke and Sir John Balcombe, Lord Justice Hobhouse dissenting) (*The Times* March 18, 1998; [1999] 2 WLR 1), who had dismissed his application for judicial review of a decision of the Home Secretary.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Miss Stephanie Harrison for Mr Salem; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Neil Garnham for the secretary of state.

LORD SLYNN *said that* Mr Salem was a Libyan national who had arrived in the United Kingdom on April 17, 1997 and claimed asylum. He had been granted temporary admission and awarded income support and related social security benefits.

On May 7 the Home Office had recorded on an internal file, wiuthout telling Mr Salem, that "asylum has been refused ... and the claim is hereby recorded as having been determined".

On November 5 Mr Salem had been told by the Benefits Agency that his income support had been stopped because the Home Office had informed them that he had been refused asylum.

Mr Salem had applied for leave to move for judicial review of the secretary of state's decision to notify the Department of Social Security that his claim to asylum had been recorded as determined. Mr Justice Tucker had refused leave.

On Mr Salem's renewed application, the Court of Appeal had decided to hear the substantive application and, by a majority, dismissed it. On June 29, 1998 the House of Lords had allowed a petition by Mr Salem for leave to appeal.

Subsequently, following an appeal to a special adjudicator, Mr Salem had been granted refugee status. When the appeal had been called on in the House of Lords, on January 18, 1999, he had accepted that his claims to income support and housing benefit would be satisfied and that there was no live issue relating to his position.

Mr Blake, however, had contended that the appeal should continue since there was still a general issue of public importance as to when it could be said that an asylum claim was "determined" by the secretary of state within the *meaning* of regulation 70(3A)(b) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (SI 1987 No 1967), as inserted by regulation 2 of the *Income Support (General) Amendment* No 3 Regulations 1993 (SI 1993 No 1679), and amended by regulation 8(3)(d) of the Social Security (Persons From Abroad) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 1996 (SI 1996 No 30)) so that an applicant ceased to be an asylum-seeker.

His Lordship accepted, as Mr Blake and Mr Pannick agreed, that in a cause where there was an issue involving a public authority as to a question of public law the House of Lords had a discretion to hear an appeal even if by the time the appeal reached the House there was no longer a lis to be decided that would directly affect the rights and obligations of the parties inter se.

The decisions in *Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada v Jervis* ([1944] AC 111) and *Ainsbury v Millington (Note)* ([1987] 1 WLR 379), and the reference to the latter in rule 42 of *Practice Directions Applicable to Civil Appeals* (January 1996) of the House of Lords, had to be read accordingly as limited to disputes concerning private law rights between the parties.

The discretion to hear disputes, even in the area of public law, had, however, to be exercised with caution and appeals that were academic between the parties should not be heard unless there was a good reason in the public interest for doing so, as, for example, but only by way of example, when a discrete point of statutory construction arose that did not involve detailed consideration of facts and where a large number of similar cases existed or were anticipated so that the issue would most likely need to be resolved in the near future.

The present was not such a case. Although a question of statutory construction arose, the facts were *by no means* straightforward and in other cases the problem of when a determination was made might depend on the precise factual context.

Mr Pannick had told the House that only in a few cases had the question arisen.

Moreover, pursuant to a White Paper published in July 1998 *Fairer, Faster and Firmer - A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asylum* (Cm 4018), it might be that the procedures to be followed would be reconsidered.

Lord Mackay, Lord Jauncey, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor.

Directive on holiday time directly enforceable

Gibson v East Riding of Yorkshire District Council

Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr P. Dawson and Mrs R. Vickers

[Judgment January 29]

A swimming instructor employed by a local authority who was paid an hourly rate and was not paid during school holidays, was entitled to four weeks paid annual leave under the Working Time Directive (93/104/EC) (OJ 1993 L307/18) which was directly enforceable by her.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by Mrs Lorraine Gibson from a decision of a Hull industrial tribunal in January 1998, that she could not rely on the provisions of the directive to claim holday entitlement and that her claim under section 13 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, that her employers, the East Riding of Yorkshire District Council, had made unlawful deductions from her wages by not paying her for annual leave, failed.

The applicant had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal had erred in law in failing to apply article 7 of the directive which provided that every worker was entitled to paid leave of at least four weeks and which was directly enforceable by the applicant against the council as an emanation of the state.

Article 7 of the directive provides:

"1 Member states shall take the measures necessary to ensure that every worker is entitled to annual leave of at least four weeks in accordance with the conditions for entitlement to, and granting of, such leave laid down by national legislation and/or practice."

Miss Jennifer Eady for Mrs Gibson; Mr Nigel Wray for the council.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the Working Time Directive was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the European Communities on November 23, 1991. It was not until October 1, 1998 that the *Working Time Regulations* (SI 1998 No 1833) came into force.

The industrial tribunal had concluded that the applicant was not entitled to paid annual leave. Its reasoning was that the directive did not meet the criteria laid down by the Court of Justice of the European Communities in a number of decisions but was a complex directive subject to extremely complex exceptions and derogations. As a health and safety measure the directive did not give any entitlement to holiday pay but merely to paid holiday leave.

His Lordship said that a provision of the EC Treaty or of a directive could only have direct effect in the laws of the member states if it was sufficiently precise and unconditional. A directive remained sufficiently precise even if its precise scope would require the European Court to interpret its provisions.

In the employment field the test of conditionality was satisfied if the provisions of the directive identified the beneficiaries of the right, the person under a duty to give effect to the right, and the nature and extent, or content of the right.

A directive would be regarded *as conditional if, before implementation*, the member state was required to have consultation with the Commission. But the fact that the directive permitted precise derogations from its terms by member states did not itself render the directive conditional.

It was the duty of the court in applying national law to ensure fulfilment of the obligation arising from a directive to achieve the result envisaged by the directive, since a directive was binding on all the authorities of the member states, including, for matters within their jurisdiction, the courts; see *Marleasing SA v La Commercial Internacional de Alimentacion SA* (Case C-106/89) ([1990] ECR 1413).

Although directives had direct effect, they did so only in relation to employees of an emanation of the state. That was because the directive itself was a provision directed to national governments and the state, or a state related employer, could not take advantage of its own failure to introduce legislation into domestic law which fully gave effect to the provisions of the directive.

There was much to be said for *the conclusion reached by the industrial tribunal*. But on balance the appeal tribunal accepted the submission that article 7 had direct effect. They would look first at the totality of the directive to set the context and then consider the particular article.

The directive was concerned with the further harmonisation of health and safety conditions within the Community, ensuring that those conditions should not be subordinated to purely economic considerations, and granting minimum annual periods of rest in order to ensure the safety and health of community workers.

Although derogations were permitted the workers' rights were protected by the making of alternative arrangements.

In the appeal tribunal's view the structure of the directive was consistent with its having direct effect. It was designed to require member states to confer minimum rights upon workers in a way which could be said to be unconditional.

Article 7 was clear and precise and admitted of no ambiguity or conditionality. Although it was argued that the applicant expressly contracted on the basis that she would receive no paid annual leave, her contractual rights were varied by the directive in the sense that had the directive been implemented timeously she would have been entitled to paid annual leave when she presented her complaint to the tribunal.

As an emanation of the state the council could not rely on the lack of domestic legislation to defeat her claim. She was entitled to four weeks paid annual leave.

Solicitors: Thompsons; Mrs Jane Birkinshaw, Beverley.

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No offence to show indecent film of child only to oneself

Regina v T

Before Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Kay and Judge Hyam

[Judgment February 4]

An offence under section 1(1)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978 was not complete if a defendant in possession of an indecent photograph of a child had shown it only to himself.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by T against his conviction on March 2, 1998, at Chichester Crown Court on a plea of guilty, after a ruling by Judge Thorpe, to possession of an indecent photograph of a child contrary to section 1(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

Section 1 of the 1978 Act provides: "(1) It is an offence for a person - (a) to take, or permit to be taken, or to make any indecent photograph ... of a child; or (b) to distribute or show such indecent photographs ... or (c) to have in his possession such indecent photographs ... with a view to their being distributed or shown by himself or others..."

Mr John M. Burton, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Warren, who did not appear below, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the relevant count in the indictment was in the following terms "possessing an indecent photograph contrary to section 1(1)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978" and the particulars of the offence alleged that he had "in his possession an indecent cine film of a child with a view to showing such film".

The facts that the appellant admitted *in relation to that count* were that he had in his possession the indecent cine film but he had only shown it to himself.

The prosecution were not seeking to demonstrate that he showed it to anyone else but maintained that it was sufficient that he showed it to himself for him to be guilty.

The appellant's contention below and on appeal was that "show" carried with it the connotation that it was shown to a third party. It was pointed out that by section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 there had in fact now been created a summary offence of possession of an indecent photograph of a child.

Their Lordships agreed that the appellant's construction of the section was right for the following reasons:

1 When one read section 1(1)(b), "to distribute or show such indecent photographs" had to mean showing to somebody not oneself. That construction was further supported by *R v Fellows and Arnold* ([1997] 1 Cr App R 244) where it was held that "showing" data stored on a computer meant to other persons and not to the person in possession himself.

2 It would be quite impossible to contend that "showing" in section 1(1)(c) had a different meaning from the meaning in section 1(1)(b).

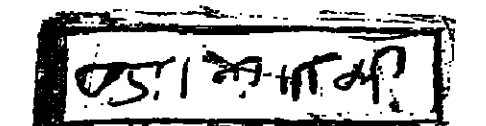
3 It would not have been necessary to pass section 160 of the 1988 Act, making simple possession an offence, if it was already an offence under section 1(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

Accordingly, it seemed to their Lordships clear that the appellant pleaded guilty on a wrong construction of the law and his conviction on that count had to be quashed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Chichester.

Correction

In *R v Ministry of Defence, Ex parte Walker (The Times* February 11) the headline was misleading in that all three judges agreed that the tank shot was a crime of violence but the majority held Sgt Walker's claim was rejected by the military activity exclusion.



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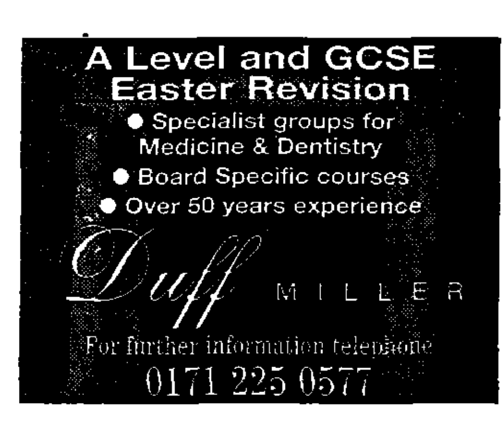
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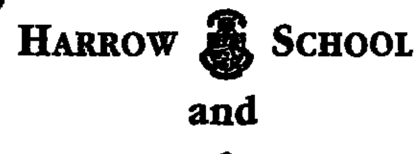
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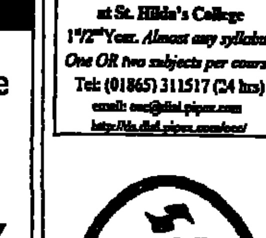
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POSTS

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THE TIMES

EDUCATION

Do five terms beat three?

Changing the school year would improve study but disrupt families. Jon Ashworth investigates

TONY STONE



Holiday chaos: a five-term year would mean more breaks at off-peak times, but could cause problems if it was not adopted by every school

Within the next few days, East Sussex County Council will step up consultations on whether to introduce a five-term year into its schools. Teachers, parents and governors are being lobbied on what is fast becoming a hot topic for debate in staffrooms.

The proposals envisage a four-week summer break, with eight-week terms separated by 14-day holidays. Reaction so far is said to be mixed, with no clear consensus one way or the other. The East Sussex Education Committee will announce its decision in June.

Making a Break, a new report from the Funding Agency for Schools, has added to the debate by suggesting that children in the five-term system learn more effectively, are less disruptive and are less inclined to tiredness.

In America, about 3,000 schools, with two million students, already work to an alternative calendar. Supporters of the system, known as year-round education, argue that spreading learning more evenly throughout the year helps to avoid "learning loss" during the long summer holiday.

The British report found that students, teachers and parents were attracted by the prospect of regular breaks, with the opportunity to take holidays outside the peak times.

Drawbacks include having children in different school systems, increased problems with finding childcare and difficulties in taking time off work to coincide with school holidays. Children did not like the idea of being off at a different time from their friends, and teachers said they would find it difficult to meet colleagues who worked in traditional systems.

The UK's 15 city technology colleges already work to a five-term year. Bradford, Bristol and Thurrock are consulting parents and teachers, as are the London boroughs of Newham and Croydon.

Opinion among teachers is mixed. Peter Barton, Headmaster of the Causeway School, a secondary in Eastbourne, East Sussex, says: "The three-term year is wasteful. The autumn term is generally agreed to be too long; often standards of learning drop. And the long summer break seems to allow many students to unlearn much of the previous year's work."

Duncan Baxter, Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School in southwest London, sees benefits in dividing the year into more neatly packaged units. "Teachers and pupils will be less tired at the end of term," he says. "Regular assessments will check progress throughout the year and syllabuses can be divided into manageable chunks. Pupils will not forget all that they have learnt in the previous term by the time they begin the next one."

Mr Baxter also sees disadvantages. "There would be an increase in the number of parents taking their children out of school early at the end of term — or returning late at the beginning of term — for family holidays," he says.

Parents, too, have mixed views of the system. Terry Forrest, a biochemist from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, has two sons of school age. He believes that working mothers in particular will run into difficulties because their established working patterns will be disrupted. But his wife Susan, a housewife, is in favour of five terms. "Children, especially younger ones, get very tired as the term progresses, and working parents wouldn't have the problem of great chunks of childcare for six weeks at a time," she claims. "Most of my friends who work dread the summer holidays. You have the two-week family holiday in France, and what do you do with the rest of the time?"

Jeff Bacall, a 46-year-old company director, and his wife Shelley, have two boys at school in Barnet, Hertfordshire. "The current arrangements fit very comfortably with the university transition," says Mr Bacall. "Also, if the change was not universal, you could have a son doing five terms and a daughter doing three."

Another parent, Dominic Riley, 40, an airline pilot, thinks that four terms would work well, but questions the merit of five. "I don't see what five terms would do," he says. "Children spend a week settling down after the holidays and a week getting excited about breaking up, and this is disruptive." Teaching unions are strongly opposed, pointing out that reducing the summer holiday, a big attraction of teaching, would deter potential recruits to the profession.

If the new system does go ahead, state schools would follow their local authorities while independent schools would make their own decisions.

Lessons in the great outdoors

John O'Leary

The visionaries who framed the 1944 Education Act had no doubt about the value of outdoor education. The legislation proclaimed: "A period of residence in a school camp ... in the country would contribute substantially to the health and width of outlook of any child from a town school." For all of the emphasis on Preparation for Adult Life in the current curriculum review, however, it will be surprising if the subject rates more than a postscript in the final report.

Schools and local authorities can no longer afford to provide the residential experience that became commonplace in the postwar era. If children are given such an opportunity at all, the financial burden falls on parents, many of whom can afford it even less.

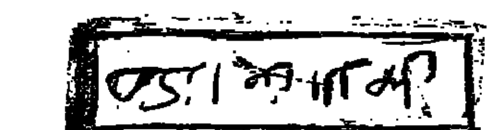
Fashions have changed in education, of course, in almost half a century. But plenty of good judges still believe that the residential experience — preferably linked to outdoor pursuits — carries benefits that should not be lightly abandoned. Teachers and employers alike recognise the growth in personal responsibility and resourcefulness that even a short course can foster.

For inner-city children in particular, many of whom have never spent time in the country or been away from home alone, the change is often striking. But with the number of outdoor centres run by local authorities dropping from more than 250 to about 100 in the past three years, their chances of being offered a place are shrinking fast. Some of the supporters of outdoor education met in Bristol this week at an RSA-sponsored conference to consider how the decline could be arrested. Sir Michael Hobbs, the director of the Outward Bound Trust, admitted that youthful apathy, parental concerns over safety and schools' fear of litigation in the event of mishaps all added to the financial problems.

Yet the demand for adventure is not dead. Partly because of the lack of local authority centres, Outward Bound's numbers are up by a third this year. Expedition organisers such as World Challenge also find interest as strong as ever. But there must be a suspicion that those who would benefit most are the least likely to be given the opportunity.

Schemes such as Birmingham's, which guarantees a residential course for every primary school child, or North Lanarkshire's, which gives 1,000 children a taste of Outward Bound, show what can be done. Almost 50 firms have contributed £10,000 to meet half the costs of the North Lanarkshire scheme, believing that they will reap rewards later in the form of more rounded employees.

A report published last year by the Secondary Heads Association indicated that there is plenty going on at school level as well. A little official encouragement would help. The curriculum is crowded enough without adding to the pressure on classroom time, but the entitlement to even a short residential course would help to preserve a valuable and endangered part of the education service.



Christopher Irvine on a rugby league coach preaching good practice

Old habits die hard for Hanley

The sign on the door summed up the man: "I never blame failure, but I am absolutely merciless towards lack of preparation and lack of effort." You can imagine any slackers wringing their hands like schoolboys caught smoking and awaiting punishment outside the headmaster's office. Ellery Hanley will tolerate nothing less from his St Helens players than the consummate professionalism, dedication and wholehearted endeavour that characterised a nonpareil playing career.

There are two computers and a laptop in his office, which overlooks the rooftops of St Helens, where public expectations of him are enormous at the start of a new season. Although a latecomer to new technology, Hanley has mastered it, like everything else, by unstinting practice. "Missed tackles, tackles. They are all counted and logged," he said.

"There's no hiding place any more. I see everything." What persuaded Hanley, after a three-year exile in Australia, to give up a good life in Sydney for the slightly ramshackle Knowsley Road is the competitive instinct that burns as brightly as ever within him.

The best deals in rugby league are usually done on the M62. Hanley was home for a few weeks on business. Sitting in a service station on the motorway, he listened to the offer put to him by St Helens and thought hard about an opportunity that was too good to miss. At 37, his playing days were over; this was the next best thing, or so he imagined.

"I get the same satisfaction coaching as I did playing," he said. "Once you leave the football field because your desire has gone, all that returns with coaching. It's something I look forward to every single day. When I go on to the paddock and we're setting up plays and players are executing them well, that's pure job satisfaction."

On his arrival last November, he issued the players with notebooks. That way they cannot be excused forgetting his instructions. Punctuality was addressed; Hanley is a stickler for timekeeping. Everyone must be willing to make sacrifices. "I'm fortunate to be in charge of a very good side with massive potential, but that will only be realised if they listen and obey all commands," he said.

Utterly inscrutable, yet engagingly perceptive and persuasive while never giving too much away — that is Hanley. He spoke recently to a Prince's Trust meeting about motivation and self-confidence and the youngsters were bowled over. No wonder players put their bodies on the line for him.

Rugby league's gain was preaching's loss. He answers questions with sermons. For someone who let his talent do the talking for much of his career, he is a natural interviewee. Why was he willing to stake his reputation? "I'm not. You talk about reputation. Character is what counts for me. That's what a person is about. Reputation is merely what others think of you."

What emotions do you undergo on match day? "None. My coaching stops after the last training session. If a player is going to be a champion, always prepare for the unexpected. That's what I hope they've logged." Dead-bat without blather. Hanley could teach certain people a trick or two.

Another of his home-made signs talks of practice being useless without quality and intensity. He could have added passion. "I think we're on this planet for a short period of time," he said. "I'd hate to think I'd left and hadn't given my maximum."

Judgment begins on Sunday, away to Hunslet Hawks in the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, which St Helens won in 1996 and 1997 under Shaun McRae. "People say you're under tremendous pressure because Shaun McRae did this and that, but the past doesn't matter," Hanley said. "All that does is the next game. Pressure is something you bring on yourself. I don't feel it.

"It's down not only to the personnel but their attitude, will to win and mental toughness. My goal, week by week, is to be able to look up at the scoreboard and see we've outscored the opposition. Another is to finish with the best defensive record."

In Paul Newlove, Anthony Sullivan, Kevin Iro, Sean Long, Paul Sculthorpe and Chris Joynt, Hanley has outstanding individual talent. He talks, though, not in personalities, but purely about teamwork. He took a pre-season defeat by Warrington Wolves badly. "If you go to any ground, don't think the opposition will lie down. Wear your heart outside your sleeve every time. We were out-enthused and lost the small battles at Warrington, which was disappointing," he said.

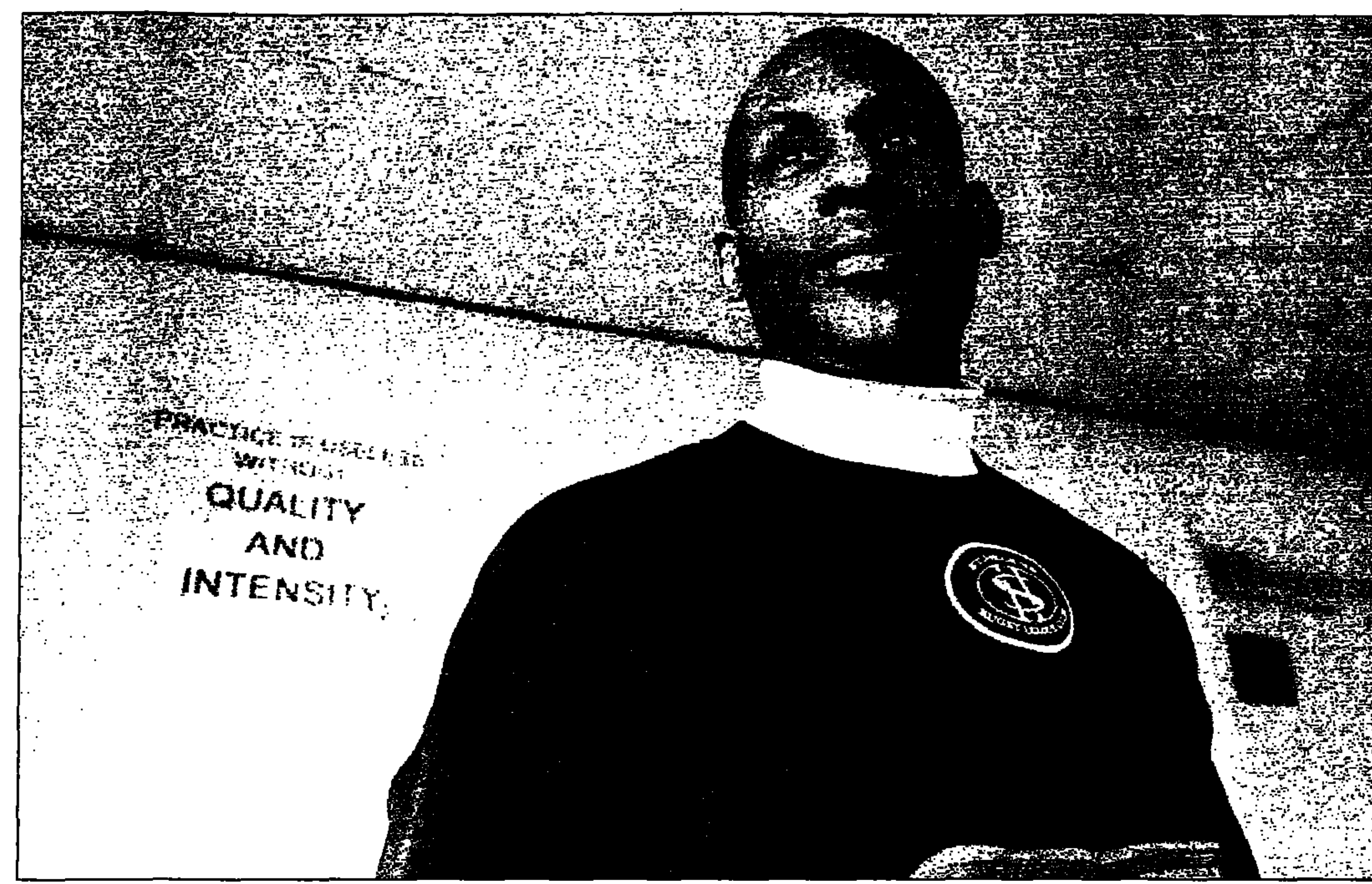
"I was fortunate to be with some fantastic individuals, who complemented my play, particularly at Wigan and Leeds, where players gelled at particular times. They were great teams."

The traditional St Helens rugby league public can be fickle and the club has suffered its share of traumas off the field in the past year, but the place is buzzing again. Hanley, more commonly associated as the destroyer of St Helens in a Wigan shirt in the Eighties, will have made it in supporters' eyes when he can turn over his old employers on a regular basis.

On leaving, I reminded him of his most significant coaching achievement so far — Great Britain's 8-4 defeat of Australia at Wembley in 1994, memorable for its incredible defiance with 12 players after the early dismissal of Shaun Edwards. He stared back as if to say: "What on earth has ancient history to do with now?"

At South Leeds Stadium on Sunday, if Hanley cannot put out 13 players blessed with his skills, he can field 13 prepared to give the level of commitment for which he was famous. He does not expect to be let down.

'Missed tackles. They are all counted and logged. There's no hiding place any more'



Sign of things to come: Hanley is determined that his message will get through to the players at Knowsley Road. Photograph: Andrew Varley

SNOOKER

Williams finally meets his match

By Phil Yates

THE three-month, 16-match unbeaten run enjoyed by Mark Williams — and his reign as Benson and Hedges Masters champion — came to an unexpected end yesterday. Williams lost 6-4 in the quarter-finals to Alan McManus, an opponent who was often on the receiving end during Williams' all-conquering spell, in which he won the Irish Open, helped Wales to lift the Nations Cup and captured the Welsh Open title.

"That was a big hurdle after what Mark has done to me lately," McManus, who had lost to Williams on three occasions this season, said. He now faces either Ronnie O'Sullivan or Ken Doherty.

Williams, who defeated McManus 5-1 at the German Masters, 9-4 in the final of the Irish Open and inflicted only the second whitewash in the Scot's nine years as a professional on the way to prevailing at the Welsh Open, made a sluggish start, whereas McManus was immediately into the groove with a break of 83 in the first frame.

He established a 5-1 lead, but Williams, who rallied from 9-6 adrift to edge out Stephen Hendry 10-9 on a re-spotted black in a memorable climax to the Masters last year, fought tigerishly. Runs of 52 and 63 enabled him to recover to 3-5 before McManus squandered an opportunity to wrap up proceedings in the ninth frame when he missed a red from short range.

Williams then embarked on an exceptional 58 clearance, which included a fearless pink using the rest, to steal the frame on the black. The tenth frame, a tense business lasting 38 minutes, was determined when McManus rolled the pink to a balk pocket from distance and, equally importantly, judged position on the black to perfection. "I am very relieved, I thought it had slipped away," he admitted.

Williams had no complaints. "I've had a great time of it lately and I always knew the run would come to an end. I wasn't going to lie down like a baby, but, overall, Alan deserved it," he said.

ATHLETICS

Smith opts to give grand prix a miss

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

STEVE SMITH, the Great Britain men's athletics team captain at the European championships last year, found himself singing from the same hymn sheet as Michael Johnson yesterday, though it sounded more like Abba than Songs of Praise. *Money, Money, Money* was the theme.

Smith launched an attack on the new paymasters of British athletics, Fast Track. Instead of competing in the BUPA indoor grand prix at Birmingham on Sunday, he will be high-jumping in Germany. The financial offer to him for Birmingham was too little, too late, he said. "I felt I was more wanted in Germany than I was in Britain, which is sad," Smith said.

Vicente Modahl, Smith's manager, said that he had tried to strike a deal in December, but Ian Stewart, the promoter, had not responded. When he did, Modahl said, the offer was less than the one from Germany, to which they had already committed.

Jon Ridgeon, for Fast Track, said: "We are going the same way as other sports, where the emphasis is on prize-money rather than appearance fees. No other British athlete wants to be anywhere else except at our meeting on Sunday."

While Smith against Javier Sotomayor, the world record-holder, would have been an interesting sideshow, Johnson's stance is more serious for Fast Track. After Iwan Thomas's all-conquering summer, there is one head-to-head above all others that would sell tickets this year: Thomas v Johnson.

However, Brad Hunt, Johnson's manager, said that the athlete would not compete in Britain until "obligations of the past have been addressed". By that, he meant the $100,000-plus that the Olympic champion is owed from his appearance at Crystal Palace in 1997.

The collapse of the British Athletic Federation 16 months ago left many athletes unpaid. Hunt argues that UK Athletics, the new governing body, should pay for the sins of its father.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 43 – Rebids on minimum hands

I touched on the subject of opener's rebids in Lesson 34 – Opening One of a Suit, when I stressed the importance of planning your rebid before opening the bidding. Over the next few weeks I am going to look at this subject in some detail.

If you have a minimum (12-14 HCP) balanced hand (*remember: no void, no singleton and not more than one doubleton*) you open One No-Trump *without a planned rebid*. Whether you actually make a rebid or not depends upon partner's first response (see Lesson 31).

When you open One of a Suit, *you should have planned your intended rebid* but must still take into account your patner's first response. Partner assumes your One of a Suit opening shows your hand is unbalanced, but if your rebid is in no-trumps he will adjust to your (now) balanced hand in his second response.

It is vital to recognise that when the opening bid is One of a Suit the bidding dialogue works progressively:

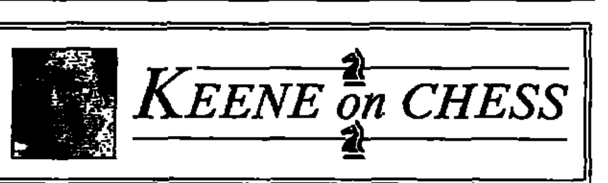
Opening bid: One Heart (I have at least four hearts and enough HCP to open the bidding).
First response: One Spade (I have at least four spades and 6+HCP).
Rebid: Two Diamonds (My hand is unbalanced, at least five hearts and four diamonds, I have less than 19 HCP or I would have jumped to Three Diamonds).
Second response: Four Hearts (My three-card heart suit fits well with your five, and I have 12 HCP so I feel we should be in game).

This typical dialogue demonstrates how the opening One of a Suit and the first response of a simple change of suit does not quantify either the shape or HCP of either hand, but the rebid and second response set boundaries for both the shape and value of the joint holdings.

Here are some straightforward examples. You open One Heart and partner responds One Spade: what do you rebid?

(A)		(B)		(C)	
♠	6 5	♠	K 7 6 4	♠	A 3
♥	A Q 7 6 5 3	♥	A J 7 6 5	♥	8 7
♦	A 4 3	♦	A 5	♦	A Q 6 5 4
♣	Q 6	♣	7 4	♣	K 10 7 6

With *Hand (A)* you simply rebid your main suit, Two Hearts. With *Hand (B)* you have good support for partner which he will be pleased to hear about – rebid Two Spades. Both these two rebids are limit bids - they tell your partner immediately that you have a minimum hand. With *Hand (C)* you rebid your second suit – Two Clubs. This is not a limit bid in the same way as the previous two examples. Here you could have up to about 18 HCP for such a bid. Two Clubs is not forcing, but partner should not pass unless he has a very poor hand.



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Seventy-five years ago

1999 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the great tournament at New York in 1924. Interestingly, this was also won by Emanuel Lasker, a quarter of a century after his triumph at London 1899, which I covered yesterday.

Professor Nathan Divinsky, the chess statistician, has also compiled some figures for leading players playing with white against only elite opponents. From these, Lasker also emerges with immense credit, particularly given the fact that Morphy played far fewer games against top flight opposition than did Lasker.

The leading percentages with White are as follows: Morphy 88.5; Lasker 71.5; Kasparov 70.7; Karpov 67.3; Capablanca 67.1; Kramnik 66.4; Anand 66.11; Charousek 66.07; Alekhine 65.7; Ivanchuk 64.8; Rubinstein 64.7; Fischer 64.1.

Today's game is a win by Lasker from New York 1924 against a coming world champion.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Emanuel Lasker
New York 1924

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	Nbd7
5	cxd5	exd5
6	Bf4	c6
7	e3	Nh5
8	Bd3	Nxf4
9	exf4	Bd6
10	g3	0-0
11	0-0	Re8
12	Qc2	Nf8
13	Nd1	f6
14	Ne3	Be6
15	Nh4	Bc7
16	b4	Bb6
17	Nf3	Bf7
18	b5	Bh5
19	g4	Bf7
20	bxc6	Rc8
21	Qb2	bxc6
22	f5	Qd6
23	Ng2	Bc7
24	Rfe1	h5
25	h3	Nh7
26	Rxe8+	Rxe8
27	Re1	Rb8
28	Qc1	Ng5
29	Ne5	fxe5
30	Qxg5	e4
31	f6	g6
32	f4	hxg4
33	Be2	gxh3
34	Bh5	Rb2
35	Nh4	Qxf4
36	Qxf4	Bxf4

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

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WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOMRAI
a. Pistachio nut dip
b. Samurai code of honour
c. A hornbill

NASSA
a. A word puzzle
b. An Egyptian donkey
c. A basket shell

HAIKAL
a. An interpreter
b. A chapel
c. An African vulture

NOMIC
a. Terse
b. Routine
c. Looking for a law

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game between Nemet and Pelletier, which was played in Zurich last year. What was Black's winning continuation?

Solution on page 50

Chris McGrath on a young jockey making an impact in a man's world



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Spencer, who has already ridden a classic winner in Ireland, gets into the thick of the action on the all-weather at Lingfield yesterday

Spencer's star in ascendancy

He looks so impossibly young that he might equally have been drawn to the all-weather track at Lingfield yesterday by the chance to make sandcastles without an incoming tide. Instead, Jamie Spencer was working on his quiet evolution as a child prodigy in the man's world of race-riding.

He looks the part, all right, albeit he could also play Bugsy Malone. Though he is 18, there is a callow tuft on his chin and he could easily pass for three or four years younger. Last spring, however, he announced himself with a *display of nerveless, innocent flair to* win the Irish 1,000 Guineas on Tarascon.

His sojourn in Britain this winter has embraced not only some dashing all-weather winners but also one over hurdles for Barney Curley — prompting that *severe* judge to avow *that here is a match for Frankie Dettori at a simi*lar stage. Certainly there has been room at the top in Flat racing since Dettori's emergence, a vacuum thus far *consumed by the maturing of Kieren* Fallon.

Spencer is fresh blood. The apprentice has had the right sorcerers in Liam Browne, who nurtured Michael Kinane among many others; in Tommy Stack, the trainer of Tarascon, whose recent meningitis has given his protégé less welcome impetus in the business of growing up; and now Curley.

Despite his endorsements, Curley is sensitive to the perils menacing Spencer's progress. After all, Walter Swinburn's soubriquet became no less appropriate for the fact that a choirboy *will be as prey to mischief and temptation* as he is cherubic. "You see a lot of young fellows that go by the wayside or get forgotten about," Spencer said. "I'm determined. I'd like to be the best some day. Whether I get that far is another thing, but I'll put everything into it. Even if people say you've natural talent, you *have* to work hard if you want to go places. Barney's taught me a lot about racing and about people in it. It's a fairly cut-throat game."

*It was no mere hunch that persuad*ed Stack to entrust Spencer with the neurotic Tarascon. The boy had grown up with Stack's own son and had inherited a horseman's instincts from his late father, George, who trained Winning Fair to win the 1963 Champion Hurdle.

"Tommy gave me the big chance and put his head on the block, though you don't get to that stage without people like Liam Browne to get you going. I owe a great deal to him. As for Tommy, I've known the family all my life and he's a gentleman. If he thinks you *could have done something different,* he doesn't shout and scream, but explains it to you. Barney's the same."

Spencer continued: "Tarascon didn't really sink in at the time. I was more excited than nervous. Every opportunity I'll take by the horns if I can. You only get a certain amount in this game. I'm learning all the time from small mistakes. I think I've improved since coming here. I *hope I'd be tidier and I'm learning* more about race reading."

His win over timber was so deftly executed that, with his physique on the puppyish side for a Flat jockey, there will be those expecting him to end up switching codes. But he is adamant. "I'd like to be a top Flat jockey if I can. I can do 8st 5lb comfortably and will do 8st 2lb, but don't want to be pushing it too hard through the winter and being wrecked halfway through summer. I've been hunting since I was ten and would love a good ride at Cheltenham, that would be a dream come true. My *father won the Champion there so it* would be important for my peace of mind. Maybe a ride in the bumper. I'm open to offers."

Rest assured, those offers will not be restricted to a bit of crack at Cheltenham — though for now, in his mentor's hour of need, he says he will return to Tipperary this summer. Either way, if Spencer has prompted some to think of Oliver, a more appropriate text remains Great Expectations.

Hopes rise for jump racing to resume

NATIONAL HUNT racing looks set to resume at Newbury and Bangor today. Frost has put paid to the jumping cards for the past three days, but temperatures are forecast to improve over the next 24 hours.

Officials at Newbury, due to race today and tomorrow, are cautiously optimistic about prospects of racing going ahead, despite a keen frost Wednesday night.

Richard Osgood, the estate manager, said yesterday: "It is due to get milder with a cloud cover for Friday night and Saturday. So, if the forecast is right, we should be okay."

Prospects for racing at Ayr tomorrow have improved dramatically. The track was frozen on Wednesday, but Richard Pridham, the clerk of the course, said: "It has warmed up and prospects for racing on Saturday are now very good."

However, Catterick will hold a 4pm inspection today to see if racing is possible tomorrow. A course spokesman said: "We are hopeful. A lot of the frost has come *out of the* ground."

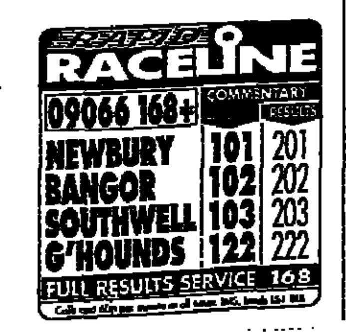
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NATIVE FLING (3.50 Newbury)

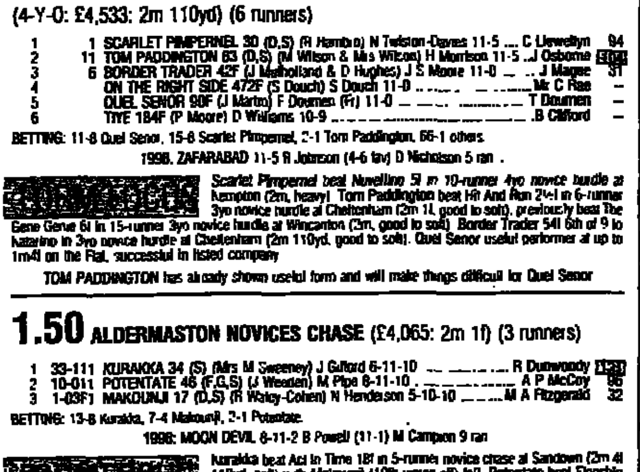
Philip Hobbs's improving young chaser takes a jump in class, but looks up to the challenge after novice victories.

NB: Knight's Crest (3.30 Bangor)

Richard Evans landed a 14-1 double with Bigwig (4-1 nap) and Royal Preview (2-1) at Lingfield yesterday.



NEWBURY



THUNDERER

1.20 Quel Senor
1.50 Makounji
2.20 Carlys Quest
2.50 Erintante
3.20 Orchestral Suite
3.50 Barnageera Boy
4.20 Good Lord Murphy

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 **NATIVE FLING.**

Carl Evans: 3.20 Warren Boy.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 STROUD GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(4-Y-O: £4,533: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 1 SCARLET PIMPERNEL 30 (D,S) (R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 11-5 .... C Llewellyn 94
2 11 TOM PADDINGTON 63 (D,S) (M Wilson & Mrs Wilson) H Morrison 11-5 .. J Osborne [TR]
3 6 BORDER TRADER 42F (J Mulholland & D Hughes) J S Moore 11-0 .... J Magee 31
4 ON THE RIGHT SIDE 472F (S Douch) S Douch 11-0 .... Mr C Rae –
5 QUEL SENOR 90F (J Martin) F Doumen (Fr) 11-0 .... T Doumen –
6 TIYE 184F (P Moore) D Williams 10-9 .... B Clifford –

BETTING: 11-8 Quel Senor, 15-8 Scarlet Pimpernel, 2-1 Tom Paddington, 66-1 others.

1998: ZAFARABAD 11-5 R Johnson (4-6 fav) D Nicholson 5 ran

Scarlet Pimpernel beat Novellino 5l in 10-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, heavy). Tom Paddington beat Hit And Run 2½l in 6-runner 3yo novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft), previously beat The Gene Genie 6l in 15-runner 3yo novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). Border Trader 54l 6th of 9 to Katarino in 3yo novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). Quel Senor useful performer at up to 1m4f on the Flat, successful in listed company

TOM PADDINGTON has already shown useful form and will make things difficult for Quel Senor

1.50 ALDERMASTON NOVICES CHASE (£4,065: 2m 1f) (3 runners)

1 33-111 KURAKKA 34 (S) (Mrs M Sweeney) J Gifford 6-11-10 .... R Dunwoody [TR]
2 10-011 POTENTATE 46 (F,G,S) (J Weeden) M Pipe 8-11-10 .... A P McCoy 86
3 1-03F1 MAKOUNJI 17 (D,S) (R Waley-Cohen) N Henderson 5-10-10 .... M A Fitzgerald 32

BETTING: 13-8 Kurakka, 7-4 Makounji, 2-1 Potentate.

1998: MOON DEVIL 8-11-2 B Powell (11-1) M Campion 9 ran

Kurakka beat Act In Time 18l in 5-runner novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with Makounji (10lb worse off) fell. Potentate beat Flagship Uberalles 11l in 7-runner novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously beat Royal Toast 14l in 4-runner novice chase at Plumpton (2m, heavy). Makounji beat Cherrymore 17l in 4-runner novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft)

MAKOUNJI rates a useful prospect and, in receipt of a stone from her two rivals, is the one to beat

2.20 FEBRUARY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,028: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1 20-116 ALHOSAAM 48 (G,S) (N Clark) G L Moore 5-12-0 .... M Batchelor (5) 104
2 44120 POLAR CHAMP 13 (S) (D Stoddart) N Gaselee 6-11-2 .... C Llewellyn 93
3 02624 NASHKAPOUR 43 (S Carroll) P Hobbs 6-10-11 .... R Dunwoody 102
4 R/1 GEMSTONE 23 (D,S) (Mrs D Haine) Mrs D Haine 6-10-9 .... G Tormey 100
5 /66511 PICKET PIECE 13 (D,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 8-10-9 .... R Johnson 112
6 050-2 CARLYS QUEST 10 (V,BF) (J Williams Transport Ltd) J Neville 5-10-2 .. N Williamson 97
7 6051-0 JUST BAYARD 85 (D,F) (N Tatman) B De Haan 7-10-0 .... J Osborne 109
8 23290 DARIEN 13 (What The Dickins) R Dickin 5-10-0 .... X Aizpuru (3) [TR]
9 055113 BARTON SCAMP 15 (BF,D,S) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 7-10-0 .... E Byrne (7) 105

Long handicap: Just Bayard 9-13, Darien 9-9, Barton Scamp 9-5.

BETTING: 5-2 Carlys Quest, 11-4 Picket Piece, 6-1 Polar Champ, 7-1 Nashkapour, Gemstone, 8-1 Alhosaam, 12-1 Barton Scamp, 16-1 others.

1998: KEN RISK 6-10-13 J Evans (12-1) M Pipe 10 ran

Alhosaam 14l 6th of 9 to Gracian Dart in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft), previously beat Laurel Seeker 8l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Nashkapour 12l 4th of 19 to Premier Generation in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft) with Gemstone (2lb better off) unseated rider. Gemstone beat Radomsko 1½l in 17-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Picket Piece beat Bucteside 2½l in 16-runner novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft) with Polar Champ (11lb better off) 28l 9th and Darien (9lb better off) 32l 12th. Carlys Quest 3½l 2nd of 12 to Lizzys First in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft), previously 14l 7th of 9 to Doyenne in 4yo novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to firm). Just Bayard 30l 8th of 11 to Brush With Time in novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft); previously beat Wynyard Lady 1½l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm). Barton Scamp 3¼l 3rd of 13 to Shannon Shoon in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft).

CARLYS QUEST has benefited for the fitting of a visor, shaping well on his reappearance

2.50 EASTLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,965: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1 10651- LADY CRICKET 293 (B,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-12-0 .... A P McCoy –
2 0-6413 ERINTANTE 72 (F,G,S) (J Vasicek) F Doumen (Fr) 6-12-0 .... T Doumen 123
3 -1310P ELA AGAPI MOU 20 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Action) G L Moore 6-11-2 .... R Dunwoody [TR]
4 21/55/ FROGMARCH 727 (C,S) (J Mills) R Phillips 9-10-13 .... J Leech –
5 1P-2P2 OLD ROUVEL 23 (D,G) (Mrs R Cowell) D Murray Smith 8-10-11 .... G Bradley 131
6 2-RR05 PIMBERLEY PLACE 45 (B,G,S) (A Creaser) N Twiston-Davies 11-10-9 C Llewellyn 73
7 1/F660 AERION 22 (G,G,S) (Chamberlain Addiscott Partnership) O Sherwood 8-10-9 .. J Osborne 55
8 40/1P- SCORING PEDIGREE 356 (D,F,S) (Wisford Racing) J Mullins 7-10-7 .. A Bates (3) –
9 1- DANGEROUS GUEST 350 (S) (W Sturt) J Old 7-10-0 .... T J Murphy 116

Long handicap: Dangerous Guest 9-11

BETTING: 5-2 Erintante, 4-1 Old Rouvel, 5-1 Lady Cricket, 6-1 Aerion, 7-1 Ela Agapi Mou, 10-1 others.

1998: MULLIGAN 8-11-13 R Johnson (9-1) D Nicholson 6 ran

Lady Cricket beat Railabag Junction ½l in 6-runner hurdle at Auteuil (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Erintante 5½l 3rd of 10 to Sydney Opera in hurdle at Enghien (2m 3f, good to soft), previously beat River Work 2½l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Enghien (2m 3f, good). *Ela Agapi Mou pulled up in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f,* soft), previously 58l 7th of 11 to Papo Kharisma in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Frogmarch 7½l 5th of 8 to Goldingo in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). Old Rouvel 5l 2nd of 8 to Castle Owen in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft). Aerion beaten a distance last of 7 to Vent D'Aout in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, heavy); previously 37l 6th of 8 to Twitcher in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft). Scoring Pedigree pulled up in novice hurdle grade 2 at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Evesprey 6l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to firm). Dangerous Guest beat Another Night 4l in 17-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to soft).

The value of ERINTANTE's French form is hard to equate but she may have got in lightly

3.20 CHARLES HIGGINS MEMORIAL FOXHUNTERS CUP (HUNTERS CHASE) (£1,562: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1 3/PP-P SAILOR JIM 27P (D,F,G,S) (W Tellwright) Mrs D Turner 12-12-10 .. Mr W Tellwright (7) –
2 431/2/ HOWARYASUN 729 (B,D,F,G,S) (M Watkins) Mrs C Hardinge 11-12-7 Mr D S Jones (3) –
3 P1-PU1 ORCHESTRAL SUITE 27P (G,S) Miss J Pidgeon 11-12-7 .... Mr R White (3) [TR]
4 U4P34- PRO BONO 282 (F,G) (W Caudwell) W Caudwell 9-12-7 .... Mr A Sansome 97
5 PP-63P HALHAM TARN 195 (S) (Miss M Tolnell) G Brown 9-12-3 .... Mr T Gibney (3) 50
6 /3113- REIGN DANCE 324 (D,F,S) (Mrs D McCarthy) Mrs D McCarthy 8-12-3 Mr T McCarthy 29
7 F14-22 WARREN BOY 20P (F,S) (F Ayres) T L Jones 9-12-3 .... Mr A Dalton (7) 64
8 0P/15- TILT TECH FLYER 305 (S) (J Mitton) J Mitton 14-11-12 .... Miss E J Jones (3) 68
9 63P-00 ALSKA 161 (S) (P Southcombe) P Southcombe 6-11-7 .. Miss W Southcombe (7) –

BETTING: 7-4 Orchestral Suite, 11-4 Reign Dance, 5-1 Warren Boy, 11-2 Howaryasun, 10-1 Pro Bono, Alska, 25-1 Tilt Tech Flyer, 50-1 others.

1998: VITAL SONG 11-12-3 Mr G Matthews (5-1) M Dare 9 ran

Howaryasun 5l 2nd of 6 to Mr Boston in hunter chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Orchestral Suite behind and unseated rider 7 out in handicap chase won by Menesonic at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good). Pro Bono 44¼l 4th of 10 to Glamanglitz in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good), previously 2l 3rd of 12 to Mr Strong Gale in handicap chase at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, good). Halham Tarn pulled up in selling hurdle at Worcester (2m, good), previously 18l 3rd of 7 to Mr Bean in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, firm). Reign Dance 15l 3rd of 9 to Lochnagrain in hunter chase at Towcester (3m 6f, good), previously beat Singh Song beaten a distance in 7-runner maiden hunter chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Warren Boy 47l 4th of 14 to Joint Account in novice hunter chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm), previously beat Vital Song 3l in 11-runner hunter chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). Tilt Tech Flyer 33l 5th of 10 to Late Encounter in hunter chase at Hereford (2m 3f, soft). Alska 34l 7th of 8 to Gaspacoe in chase at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd, soft).

WARREN BOY, a recent second between the flags, has claims on his Cheltenham win of last season

3.50 HAMPSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (£5,573: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 -43123 BARNAGEERA BOY 20 (G,S) (Mrs C Wilson) W Jenks 10-11-10 .... T Jenks 133
2 435U/P SOUND REVEILLE 41 (G,S) (Mrs L Abecassis) Miss H Knight 11-11-8 .. J Osborne –
3 30285- SUBLIME FELLOW 318 (F,G,S) (Rory McGrath) N Henderson 9-11-7 .M A Fitzgerald 107
4 /F-241 COUNTRY STAR 32 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Towler) E L James 6-11-2 .... G Bradley 116
5 2215F/ KINGS CHERRY 680 (CD,S) (T Scaifield) J Old 11-11-0 .... T J Murphy –
6 3-1222 MOUSE BIRD 63 (D,S) (O Pierce) D Gandolfo 9-10-9 .... C Llewellyn 127
7 B6-6P5 JAZZY REFRAIN 170 (D,F,G,S) (P Zetter) L Wells 9-10-7 .... L Aspell 89
8 /13112 NATIVE FLING 10 (BF,D,S) (A Loze) P Hobbs 7-10-6 .... R Dunwoody [TR]

BETTING: 7-2 Barnageera Boy, 4-1 Sublime Fellow, Country Star, Mouse Bird, 9-2 Native Fling, 10-1 Kings Cherry, 16-1 Sound Reveille, 33-1 Jazzy Refrain

1998: SEEK THE FAITH 9-11-6 R Johnson (7-2 fav) M Sheppard 9 ran

Barnageera Boy 23l 3rd of 6 to Super Coin in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, soft), previously 3½l 2nd of 3 to Nearly An Eye in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, soft). Sublime Fellow 31l 5th of 6 to Danies Cavalier in handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good). Country Star beat Northern Saddler 4l in 7-runner handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 110yd, soft), previously 37l 4th of 6 to Nipper Reed in novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy). Kings Cherry fell in handicap chase at Aintree (2m 6f, good), previously 45l 5th of 7 to Donjuan Collonges in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Mouse Bird 3l 2nd of 5 to Act In Time in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to soft), previously 5l 2nd of 4 to Rovestar in handicap chase at Warwick (2m, soft). Jazzy Refrain 32l 5th of 7 to Fenwick's Brother in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Native Fling 7l 2nd of 14 to North Kilkenny in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good to soft), previously beat Credo Boy 8l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy).

BARNAGEERA BOY is proving admirably consistent and should go close despite top weight

4.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£4,731: 3m 110yd) (10 runners)

1 5-1121 FLYING GUNNER 41 (CD,S) (Mrs R Skan) D Nicholson 8-12-0 .... R Johnson 122
2 24/244 BANKHEAD 8 (CD,F,G,S) (A & Mrs L Brazier) J Spearing 10-11-13 Miss C Spearing 117
3 -1P652 DOM BELTRANO 41 (D,S) (C Wright) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-11 .... C Llewellyn 122
4 1214-P GOOD LORD MURPHY 84 (BF,G,S) (Country Side) P Hobbs 7-11-8 R Dunwoody 121
5 -111FP WHO AM I 69 (G,S) (Mrs C Browne) R Alner 9-11-6 .... A P McCoy 110
6 285435 AFARKA 55 (D,S) (D Brennan Accountants Synd) B Palling 6-11-4 .... J Osborne –
7 -P022F BRACKENHEATH 15 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Gusti) D Grissell 8-11-3 .... N Williamson 118
8 1-1F3P JET BOYS 15 (CD,F,G,S) (Jet Stationery Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-13 T J Murphy [TR]
9 /P5-P3 ALLEZ WIJINS 23 (G,S) (Mrs C Hanbury) N Henderson 10-10-3 .... M A Fitzgerald 93
10 25-P4P LOTTERY TICKET 58 (G,S) (A Parker) T George 10-10-0 .... G Tormey –

Long handicap: Lottery Ticket 9-12

BETTING: 11-4 Flying Gunner, 4-1 Dom Beltrano, 6-1 Good Lord Murphy, Allez Wijins, 7-1 Jet Boys, 10-1 Who Am I, 12-1 Bankhead, Afarka, 14-1 others.

1998: EAU DE COLOGNE 6-11-7 R Dunwoody (11-2) Mrs L Richards 9 ran

*Flying Gunner beat Dom Beltrano (2lb better off) 1¼l in 6-runner handi*cap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, soft). Bankhead beaten a distance 4th of 10 to Ramallah in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, soft), previously 33l 4th of 6 to Native Field in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, soft). Good Lord Murphy pulled up in novice chase at Exeter (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft), previously 22l 4th of 12 to Unsinkable Boxer in novice hurdle grade 1 at Aintree (3m 110yd, soft). Who Am I pulled up in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good), beat Molsum 7l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m5f, soft) when last completing. Afarka 11l 5th of 10 to Sallie's Girl in handicap hurdle at Navan (3m, heavy). Allez Wijins 8l 3rd of 8 to Castle Owen in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft).

ALLEZ WIJINS signalled a return to form latest and could now be ready to strike

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
O Sherwood	10	43	23.3	J Osborne	24	79	30.4
D Nicholson	18	86	20.9	R Johnson	9	36	25.0
M Pipe	14	68	20.6	T J Murphy	6	25	24.0
R Alner	6	35	17.1	R Dunwoody	14	90	15.6
N Henderson	15	90	16.7	C Llewellyn	14	96	14.6
N Twiston-Davies	14	86	16.3	A McCoy	12	84	14.3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newbury: 2.50 Ela Agapi Mou, 3.20 Howaryasun. **Southwell:** 2.10 The Cottonwool Kid, 3.10 I Cried For You, 4.10 Clouds Of Glory, Qualitair Silver, Daring News, Loughanlea, 4.45 Digital Option, General Assembly. **Bangor:** 2.30 Eben Al Habeeb.

☐ Rupert Nuttall, the Whitbread Gold Cup-winning amateur, has been forced to retire. Nuttall, 39, won Sandown's big chase on Harwell Lad in 1997 but broke his neck while riding in a point-to-point last year. Yesterday, he said from his home in Somerset: "The consultants have told me I can ride but not at 30mph in races. I'm missing it badly. I want to continue working with National Hunt horses and intend expanding a school for teaching young horses to jump and curing problems in older horses."

BANGOR

THUNDERER

2.00 Leaburn. 2.30 River Wye. 3.00 Potter Again. 3.30 Knight's Crest. 4.00 **CARBURY CROSS** (nap). 4.30 Kibreet. 5.00 Gulshan.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Kibreet.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 EBF NH NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFIER)

(£2,808: 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1 13P5 GULDER 13 (CD,G) P R Webber 5-11-5 .... J A McCarthy 101
2 0-0 ALTHREY RULER 58 W Clay 6-11-0 .... S Wynne –
3 53-3 CHOICE CUT 43 T Caldwell 6-11-0 .... Michael Brennan 103
4 352 COBLE LANE 681 I Williams 7-11-0 .... R Widger (5) –
5 3-00 GENERAL CLAREMONT 63 D Nicholson 6-11-0 A Maguire 75
6 0-5P INTO BATTLE 80 J J Quinn 5-11-0 .... L Wyer –
7 0-5P KARZHANG 45 W Jenks 7-11-0 .... Gary Lyons –
8 2 LEABURN 22 P Hobbs 6-11-0 .... C Maude [TR]
9 2342 MAPLETON 36 Mrs S Smith 6-11-0 .... Mr J Crowley (5) 61
10 004 MEADOWS BOY 43 B Palling 7-11-0 .... W Marston –
11 430 STRONG SPRAY 66 Mrs S Smith 6-11-0 .... S Durack –
12 06-0 TELL MONTY 73 Mrs J Brown 7-11-0 .... B Fenton 83
13 P THE MIDNITE GROCER 13 L Lungo 7-11-0 .... R Supple –
14 -P65 MERRY CHRISTMAS 18 E Owen Jun 6-10-9 Mr R Forristal (5) –
15 5-00 PHAR AND AWAY 64 Countess Goess-Saurau 5-10-9 .... Sophie Mitchell –
16 08 TALKING IN RIDDLES 64 W Jenks 6-10-9 .... R Bellamy –

7-4 Leaburn, 4-1 Gulder, 9-2 Choice Cut, 7-1 Mapleton, General Claremont, 16-1 others.

2.30 CHIRK NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,696: 2m 1f 110yd) (11)

1 35-2 NAMOODAJ 15 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 6-12-0 .... A Maguire 92
2 612U RIVER WYE 15 (BF,D,G,S) G Fierro 7-11-11 .... V Slattery [TR]
3 5332 CAVALIER D'OR 67 (D,S) J J O'Neill 8-11-7 .... R McGrath 108
4 -132 REACH THE CLOUDS 17 (BF,D,G,S) J Upson 7-10-7 J Supple 117
5 1-P2 LA BRIGANTINE 17 (S) R Buckler 6-10-6 .... B Powell 117
6 5332 INDEPENDENT GREY 18 Mrs S Smith 8-10-6 Mr J Crowley (5) 103
7 F-12 ORIENTAL BOY 45 (BF,S) R Lee 7-10-4 .... S Durack 120
8 1506 EBEN AL HABEEB 17 (B,D,S) D McCain 8-10-0 A C Coyle (5) 64
9 -444 DOVETTO 35 (S) C J Price 10-10-0 .... L Cummins (3) 89
10 F5P5 WHITE IN FRONT 59 Mrs A Price 8-10-0 Mr P Costello (7) 81
11 -000 CONSTANT HUSBAND 55 R N Bevis 6-10-0 .... Gary Lyons –

3-1 Reach The Clouds, 7-2 River Wye, Oriental Boy, 5-1 Namoodaj, Cavalier D'or, 15-1 La Brigantine, Independent Grey, 16-1 others.

3.00 HOLYWELL HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,583: 2m 1f) (10)

1 4253 KINGDOM EMPEROR 13 (D,F,S) W Clay 5-11-12 S Wynne 87
2 13P- POTTER AGAIN 367 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-4 .... A Maguire –
3 0321 KING'S CROSS 15 (G,S) A J Wilson 10-11-3 Mr R Forristal (5) 92
4 2-00 LORD DISCORD 106 (S) J Mackie 5-10-12 .... T Eley –
5 .50 UP IN FLAMES 25F S Bowring 8-10-9 .... A S Smith –
6 5025 PRAIRIE MINSTREL 52 (F,S) R Dickin 5-10-4 M Keighley (7) [TR]
7 1-46 JANGLYNYVE 29 (F) Mrs M Jones 5-10-1 .... L Wyer 89
8 2100 CHIEF MOUSE 96 (C,D,F,G,S) F Jordan 6-10-0 .... R Farrant 102
9 5354 TANSEEQ 20 (CD,G,S) M Meagher 6-10-0 C McCormack (5) 95
10 0061 COBLE 22 (S) D McCain 5-10-0 .... A C Coyle (5) 75

5-4 King's Cross, 5-1 Kingdom Emperor, 7-1 Potter Again, Janglynyve, 9-1 others.

3.30 BATES & HUNT BUDGET GAS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,436: 3m 6f) (16)

1 334- FULL OF OATS 305 (G,S) P Hobbs 13-11-10 R Widger (5) 105
2 62F4 FLIPPANCE 29 (B,G) N Gaselee 9-11-7 .... D Leahy 113
3 P545 COOLE HILL 44 (G,S) D Nicholson 8-11-6 .... A Maguire [TR]
4 13-5 CERIDWEN 16 (CD,S) T Greathead 9-11-6 .... L Sothern (7) 66
5 -131 KNIGHT'S CREST 55 (G,S) R Dickin 9-11-5 .... L Wyer 114
6 -3FP MR MAGNETIC 35 (S) H Daly 8-11-5 .... C Maude 110
7 3F34 SISTER ROSZA 17 (C,S) Mrs S Lamyman 11-11-4 R Farrant 112
8 U133 LAY IT OFF 42 (F,G,S) J O'Neill 10-11-4 .... R Massey 110
9 06P2 MISTER TRICK 58 (F,G) L Lungo 9-11-2 .... R Supple 114
10 -22F TRUE FORTUNE 37 (BF,G,S) V Darnall 9-11-1 .... B Fenton 112
11 2143 MISTER BLAKE 34 (BF,C,F,G,S) R Lee 9-11-0 .R Thornton 117
12 13- DIAMOND FORT 367 (F,G,S) J McConnochie 14-10-13 .... R McGrath –
13 P-02 MAURACHAS 42 (G,S) M Sheppard 9-10-12 .... G Upton 107
14 2/12 NO FIDDLING 22 (F,S) G McCourt 8-10-8 .... E Husband 103
15 0062 PINK GIN 17 (V,F,G,S) M Meagher 12-10-0 C McCormack (3) 111
16 4-63 ALASKAN HEIR 17 (V,G,S) A Streeter 8-10-0 .... Gary Lyons 109

4-1 Knight's Crest, 6-1 Mister Blake, 8-1 Lay It Off, Mister Trick, 10-1 others.

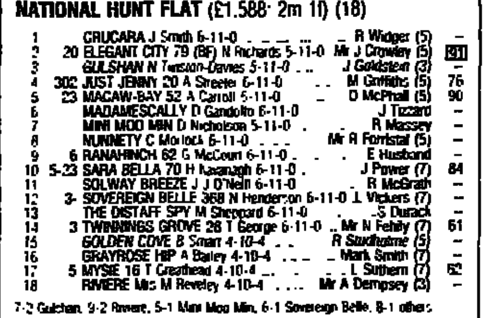
4.00 DENBIGH NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,948: 2m 4f) (18)

1 413 CARBURY CROSS 18 (D,S) J J O'Neill 5-11-10 R McGrath [TR]
2 1213 PENINSULA BOY 108 (BF,D,G) P Bowen 6-11-8 W Marston 79
3 -344 LOOK SHARPER 13 R Buckler 6-11-2 .... B Powell 91
4 2642 LUCKY MASTER 32 J Upson 7-11-0 .... J Supple 92
5 -F23 DEMI CENTURY 29 Mrs S Smith 7-10-13 .... S Durack 100
6 61P0 TRUE MISSION 14 (S) H Daly 8-10-12 .... J Tizzard 98
7 C4P0 PRANCING BLADE 25 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-11 .C Maude 23
8 304P GO BRITANNIA 35 F Jordan 6-10-10 .... P Niven 101
9 2451 ERRIGAL 32 (D,S) D Nicholson 4-10-10 .... A Maguire 85
10 P651 ARTIC GROUND 43 (S) P R Webber 7-10-9 .... R Garritty 96
11 3453 ROKER JOKER 13 R Peacock 8-10-6 .... C Webb 99
12 336F FLAHIVE'S FIRST 52 (G) R J Price 5-10-5 .... A Dobbin 93
13 6020 BILLY NOMAITE 14 Mrs S Smith 5-10-4 .Mr J Crowley (5) 102
14 3346 SUMO 18 Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-3 .... R Farrant 86
15 -044 THE NEGOTIATOR 116 M Healon-Ellis 5-10-0 .... L Wyer 76
16 0014 HEAD GARDENER 48 (B,D,G) R Lee 5-10-0 Mr P Costello (7) 48
17 P433 BRONHALLOW 7 (B) Mrs B Waring 6-10-0 .... E Byrne 87
18 320P ADMIRAL'S GUEST 35 W Clay 7-10-0 .... S Wynne 92

5-1 Carbury Cross, 6-1 Artic Ground, 7-1 Lucky Master, Errigal, 8-1 others.

4.30 GILBERT COTTON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (£1,544: 2m 4f 110yd) (14)



1 F31- ANDERMATT 300 (CD,G,S) J Mackie 12-12-7 .... Mr J R Cornwall (7) [TR]
2 P45- DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL 282 (D,G,S) Miss H Knight 8-12-7 .... Mr A Dempsey 63
3 11P- HACKETTS CROSS 489 (D,F,G) G Briscoe 11-12-7 .... Mr C Stockton (5) –
4 050- KIBREET 258 (F,G,S) P Hobbs 12-12-7 .... Mr P Flynn (7) 77
5 450- KING OF SHADOWS 263 (CD,G) Miss C Carden 12-12-7 .... Mr S Prior (7) 67
6 /PP/ MR GOLIGHTLY 701 (S) Mrs J Reed 12-12-7 .. Mrs J Reed (5) –
7 P-P5 WALLS COURT 6 (B,D,G) J O'Shea 12-12-7 Mr J R Barlow (7) –
8 231- CABIN HILL 324 (D,S) Mrs A Price 13-12-0 Mr P Costello (7) 88
9 104- DALAMETRE 289 (G,S) M Evans 12-12-0 Mr M Munrowd (7) 80
10 -F00 DESERT CALM 196 D McCain 10-12-0 Mr D Dickenson (7) 73
11 4P2/ EAU SO SLOE 648 F Matthews 8-12-0 .... Miss S Talbot (7) –
12 114- FINCH'S GEM 272 (C,G,S) Mrs J Owen 11-12-0 Mr R Forristal 79
13 3P-P SIR-EILE 13P (F) D Ibbotson 11-12-0 .... Mr N Kent (7) –
14 P/P- QUEENS CURATE 379 Mrs E Scott 12-11-9 Miss S West (7) –

2-1 Kibreet, 3-1 Andermatt, 6-1 Destin D'Estruval, Cabin Hill, 7-1 Finch's Gem, 10-1 others.

5.00 CROXTON MARES ONLY INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,588: 2m 1f) (18)

1 CRUCARA J Smith 6-11-0 .... R Widger (5) –
2 20 ELEGANT CITY 79 (BF) N Richards 5-11-0 Mr J Crowley (5) [TR]
3 GULSHAN N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0 .... J Goldstein (3) –
4 302 JUST JENNY 20 A Streeter 6-11-0 .... M Griffiths (5) 76
5 23 MACAW-BAY 52 A Carroll 5-11-0 .... D McPhail (5) 90
6 MADAMESCALLY D Gandolfo 6-11-0 .... J Tizzard –
7 MINI MOO MIN D Nicholson 5-11-0 .... R Massey –
8 NUNNETY C Morlock 6-11-0 .... Mr R Forristal (5) –
9 6 RANAHINCH 62 G McCourt 6-11-0 .... E Husband –
10 5-23 SARA BELLA 70 H Kavanagh 6-11-0 .... J Power (7) 84
11 SOLWAY BREEZE J J O'Neill 6-11-0 .... R McGrath –
12 3- SOVEREIGN BELLE 368 N Henderson 6-11-0 .L Vickers (7) –
13 THE DISTAFF SPY M Sheppard 6-11-0 .... S Durack –
14 3 TWINNINGS GROVE 28 T George 6-11-0 .. Mr N Fehily (7) 61
15 GOLDEN COVE B Smart 4-10-4 .... R Studholme (5) –
16 GRAYROSE HIP A Bailey 4-10-4 .... Mark Smith (7) –
17 5 MYSIE 16 T Greathead 4-10-4 .... L Sothern (7) 62
18 RIVIERE Mrs M Reveley 4-10-4 .... Mr A Dempsey (3) –

7-2 Gulshan, 9-2 Riviere, 5-1 Mini Moo Min, 6-1 Sovereign Belle, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 13 winners from 48 runners, 27.1%; P R Webber, 6 from 24, 25.0%; P Hobbs, 6 from 25, 24.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 4 from 20, 20.0%; R Dickin, 4 from 22, 18.2%; L Lungo, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: J Magee, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; A Maguire, 8 from 36, 22.2%; R McGrath, 3 from 17, 17.6%; W Marston, 8 from 58, 13.8%; P Niven, 3 from 24, 12.5%; J McCarthy, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.10 Kass Alhawa. 1.40 La Petite Flameche. 2.10 Czar Wars. 2.40 Pickens. 3.10 Bold Aristocrat. 3.40 Heathyards Jake. 4.10 Abtaal. 4.45 Spa Lane.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.10 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP

(Div I: £2,347: 1m) (15 runners)

101 3210 ARC 2 F Jordan 5-10-2 (6ex) .... P Cleary (7) 13
102 51-0 EUROLINK MOUSSAKA 28 J Eyre 4-10-0 .... C Lowther 14
103 044- SPARKLING HARRY 83 (D) Miss L Siddall 5-9-2 .... P Cochrane 11
104 5-15 CAM LINE 14 (BF,CD,F) F Bell 6-9-1 .... G Hannon (7) 10
105 -600 YAJTAHED 14 (B,D,S) G L Moore 4-9-1 .... F Norton 7
106 2-42 KASS ALHAWA 4 (B,BF,C,D) D Chapman 6-8-10 A Culhane 3
107 000- KHATTAFF 157 M Brittain 4-8-9 .... G Bardwell 2
108 540- TUNNEL BRIDGE 147 K Ryan 5-8-8 .... P Fessey 5
109 20-0 GINNER MORRIS 32 C Burn 4-8-7 .... D Mernagh (5) 12
110 1246 TOM 10 (V,CD) C Fairhurst 4-8-5 .... Dean McKeown 1
111 -403 SHARP MONKEY 14 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-2 R Price 9
112 -330 BUNIJES OWN 7 (S) J L Harris 4-8-0 .... C Cogan (7) 6
113 50-0 MISTER MUXNELLY 38 (D,F,S) J Jenkins 6-7-10 .... J Quinn 8
114 -065 KANAWA 8 A P Jones 5-7-10 .... J Lowe 15
115 0500 HIGHSPEED 11 (B,D,F,S) F Felgate 7-7-10 .... P M Quinn (7) 4

3-1 Kass Alhawa, 4-1 Cam Line, 7-1 Sparkling Harry, Tom, 10-1 Arc, Eurolink Moussaka, Yajtahed, 12-1 others.

1.40 NORTH STAR HANDICAP

(Div I: £2,463: 6f) (10)

201 2126 ANOKATO 5 (V,D,F) Mrs N Macauley 5-10-0 Dean McKeown 10
202 0-42 EURO VENTURE 7 (D) D Nicholls 4-9-9 .... P Doe (5) 5
203 -205 YOUNG BIGWIG 7 (D,F,S) D Chapman 5-9-6 .... A Culhane 4
204 2606 SEA YA MAITE 16 (B,CD) S Bowring 5-9-3 .... G Strange 9
205 35-1 THAAYER 14 (CD) F Bell 4-9-2 .... T Sprake 7
206 2055 KOSEVO 14 (V,C) D Shaw 5-8-9 .... R Winston (3) 2
207 0241 BARITONE 11 (V,CD) S Kettlewell 5-8-9 (6ex) R FitzPatrick (5) 6
208 00-0 RUDE AWAKENING 11 (CD,F) C Fairhurst 5-8-5 I Grantham (7) 3
209 0-00 LA PETITE FLAMECHE 27 R D Sullivan 4-8-5 .... J Quinn 8
210 6-00 RAMSEY HOPE 32 (CD,F) D Chapman 6-7-10 .... P Fessey 1

11-4 Euro Venture, 9-2 Thaayer, 6-1 Young Bigwig, Baritone, 7-1 Sea Ya Maite, 8-1 Anokato, Kosevo, 12-1 others.

2.10 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP

(Div II: £2,334: 1m) (15)

301 2413 WAITING KNIGHT 3 (V,D) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-1 (6ex) R Price 15
302 00-0 HAKEEM 4 (G) M Brittain 4-9-12 .... R Farmer (7) 3
303 0101 MAGGHIE BOY 4 (CD,F,G) M Ryan 10-9-10 (6ex) P McCabe 5
304 3411 HIGH NOON 6 (D) N Littmoden 4-9-5 (6ex) T G McLaughlin 6
305 5-60 BOLD BECKY 15 A P Jones 5-9-1 .... T Sprake 9
306 -100 LAA JADEED 7 (C) M Pulgrave 4-8-11 .... Dean McKeown 12
307 -054 CZAR WARS 6 (S) P Dalton 4-8-10 .... D Sweeney 8
308 00-2 ANONYM 14 (C,D,F,G) D Moore 7-8-7 .... J Quinn 13
309 050- GENUINE JOHN 114 (C,D,G) J Parkes 6-8-5 R Winston (3) 10
310 305- TARRADALE 53 (D,S) C Booth 5-8-5 .... A Culhane 4
311 -033 GOLDEN LYRIC 14 J Pearce 4-8-2 .... G Bardwell 14
312 000- BROUGHTON SIREN 112 W Musson 4-7-11 .... Dale Gibson 2
313 00-6 AVERHAM STAR 9 D Shaw 4-7-10 .... P Fessey 7
314 0/0- THE COTTONWOOL KID 90J (V) Mrs A Naughton 7-7-10 .... Iona Wands (5) 11
315 /12- POLAR REFRAIN 232 (B,BF,D,S) J Eyre 6-7-10 P M Quinn (7) 1

7-2 High Noon, 9-2 Magghie Boy, 7-1 Waiting Knight, Golden Lyric, 8-1 Anonym, 10-1 Czar Wars, 12-1 Laa Jadeed, Genuine John, Tarradale, 14-1 others.

2.40 SEA GOAT CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,264: 1m 4f) (6)

401 -243 ALSAHIB 23 (C,D) W Muir 6-9-8 .... Martin Dwyer 2
402 -216 ABULJOOD 13 (B,D) P Haslam 4-9-5 .... C Lowther 5
403 0-01 MOONRAKING 7 (B,CD) Miss S Wilton 6-9-4 J Savage (7) 6
404 -601 PICKENS 7 (CD,F) Enrico Incisa 7-9-4 .... Kim Tinkler 1
405 OUT FOR A CRUISE 85J D Carroll 6-8-8 .... R Cochrane 3
406 51-2 TIME OUT 14 (C) G M Moore 4-8-1 .... J Quinn 4

7-4 Abuljood, 9-4 Alsahib, 4-1 Moonraking, 11-2 Pickens, 10-1 Time Out, 50-1 Out For A Cruise

3.10 NORTH STAR HANDICAP

(Div II: £2,450: 6f) (9)

501 0030 REDOUBTABLE 7 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-9-12 .A Culhane 2
502 3140 ELTON LEDGER 7 (V,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 10-9-7 P McCabe 6
503 320- COOL PROSPECT 119 K Ryan 4-9-7 .... R Cochrane 3
504 00-0 I CRIED FOR YOU 14 (V,F) J Given 4-9-3 . T G McLaughlin 1
505 0-06 SHARP PEARL 10 (B,F) D Cosgrove 6-9-2 .... S Whitworth 9
506 1056 LEOFRIC 14 (C) M Polglase 4-8-9 .... P Doe (5) 7
507 -050 NIFTY NORMAN 9 (G,S) D Nicholls 5-8-8 .... F Norton 5
508 4062 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 4 (CD) R Hollinshead 8-8-6 P M Quinn (7) 4
509 0-03 SCURRILOUS 3 J L Harris 4-8-4 .... Dean McKeown 8

4-1 Leofric, 9-2 Redoubtable, 6-1 Elton Ledger, Cool Prospect, Bold Aristocrat, 8-1 I Cried For You, Nifty Norman, 10-1 others.

3.40 FLYING DRAGON MAIDEN STAKES

(£2,853: 7f) (12)

601 0-50 ALMAZHAR 25 J Eyre 4-9-10 .... C Lowther 2
602 ANOTHER CENTURY D Nicholls 4-9-10 .... O Pears 4
603 26-4 BAHAMIAN PIRATE 11 D Nicholls 4-9-10 .... Alex Greaves 1
604 SPRINGWOOD R Fahey 4-9-10 .... R Winston (3) 8
605 5-4 ASILANA 14 T Easterby 3-8-7 .... L Charnock 12
606 35-3 HEATHYARDS JAKE 4 R Hollinshead 3-8-7 .... W Ryan 5
607 65 KENTUCKY BULLET 8 M Johnston 3-8-7 .... J Fanning 7
608 0 MARTON MERE 14 T Easterby 3-8-7 .... J Quinn 10
609 6-0 ANGIE MARINIE 14 R Fahey 3-8-2 .... P Hanagan (7) 3
610 5 FLOSSY 11 C Thornton 3-8-2 .... Dale Gibson 6
611 6 FRENCH SPICE 16 M Prescott 3-8-2 .... T Sprake 9
612 00- LADY COLDUNELL 104 N Callaghan 3-8-2 .... A Mackay 11

6-4 French Spice, 7-2 Bahamian Pirate, 7-1 Asilana, 9-1 Kentucky Bullet, 10-1 Heathyards Jake, 14-1 Marton Mere, 16-1 Almazhar, 20-1 others.

4.10 PEACOCK SELLING STAKES (£1,898: 7f) (11)

1 016- SCATHEBURY 99 (D,F,S) K Burke 6-9-13 .... N Callan (5) 4
2 -005 ABTAAL 4 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-8 .... P McCabe 3
3 0-02 BICTON PARK 28 K Comerford 5-9-8 .... P Fitzsimons (7) 9
4 5-00 DARING NEWS 14 (B) O O'Neill 4-9-8 .... S Whitworth 6
5 -006 I'M TEF 7 (B,CD) T Easterby 4-9-8 .... L Charnock 1
6 -003 RENNYHOLME 6 K Ryan 8-9-8 .... D Young (7) 11
7 000- SHAMOKIN 187 F Watson 7-9-8 .... Kimberley Hart (5) 8
8 4-00 CLOUDS OF GLORY 28 (V) J Norton 4-9-3 .... O Pears 10
9 06-0 QUALITAIR SILVER 39 (V) Miss L Siddall 5-9-3 R Cochrane 5
10 0-04 STRAVSEA 9 B Baugh 4-9-3 .... T G McLaughlin 2
11 0-40 LOUGHANLEA 8 (B) D Nicholls 3-8-5 .... F Norton 7

3-1 Stravsea, 4-1 Loughanlea, 6-1 Scathebury, 13-2 I'm Tef, 7-1 Abtaal, Bicton Park, 8-1 Rennyholme, 16-1 others.

4.45 MILKY WAY HANDICAP (£2,400: 2m) (16)

1 60-0 GENERAL ASSEMBLY 32J (B,S) G Margarson 7-10-0 .... N Callan (5) 9
2 05-1 QUEZON CITY 11 (CD,F) Miss J A Camacho 5-8-13 (5ex) .... L Charnock 10
3 0-34 MAFTUN 11 (C,F) G M Moore 7-8-12 .... O Pears 13
4 000- BIRTHPLACE 627J (G,S) J Eyre 9-8-12 .... R Lappin 11
5 000/ HE'S GOT WINGS 475J (D,F) M Pell 6-8-11 .... G Carter 1
6 00-2 BILLY BOX 14 (D) I Balding 7-8-10 .... S Whitworth 5
7 -235 PERTEMPS MISSION 11 (V,D,F) J Pearce 5-8-10 R Price 7
8 4-12 SPA LANE 11 (BF,CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Lamyman 6-8-1 J Quinn 2
9 0/32 MUDLARK 11 (V) J Norton 7-8-0 .... G Bardwell 3
10 25-3 OLD HUSH WING 11 (F) Mrs M Reveley 6-7-12 Dale Gibson 4
11 040/ DIGITAL OPTION 48J (V) Mrs N Macauley 5-7-11 A Polli (3) 16
12 60-0 PRINCESSE ZELDA 41 Miss L Siddall 5-7-10 .... N Carlisle 14
13 05/0 MONACLE 25 (E) John Berry 5-7-10 .... Declan O'Shea 6
14 /00- BERNIE'S STAR 48J N Bycroft 5-7-10 .... F Norton 8
15 0000 TRANSPARENT 7 (G) D Carroll 7-7-10 .. P M Quinn (7) 15
16 -400 SHUTTLECOCK 15 (C,S) D Chapman 8-7-10 .... M Baird (3) 12

7-2 Quezon City, 4-1 Old Hush Wing, 9-2 Billy Box, 6-1 Spa Lane, 8-1 Maftun, Mudlark, 10-1 Pertemps Mission, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bell, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; Sir M Prescott, 25 from 80, 31.3%; Miss S Wilton, 10 from 36, 27.8%; D Carroll, 4 from 17, 23.5%; M Johnston, 42 from 214, 19.6%; P Haslam, 23 from 124, 18.5%.

JOCKEYS: R FitzPatrick, 8 winners from 22 rides, 36.4%; G Hannon, 3 from 11, 27.3%; Kimberley Hart, 11 from 49, 22.4%; P McCabe, 19 from 131, 14.5%; R Cochrane, 20 from 150, 13.3%; R Price, 10 from 79, 12.7%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.00 (1m 5f) 1, **Bigwig** (Mr I Morgan, 4-1 jt-fav; **Richard Evans's nap**); 2, Time Can Tell (9-1); 3, Nosey Native (7-1). Philosophic (6th) 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. 2½l, 5l. G L Moore. Tote: £3.80; £1.40, £2.40, £2.60. DF: £16.10. CSF: £35.04. Tricast: £218.73.

2.30 (2m) 1, **Cry For Freedom** (R Price, 8-1); 2, Keepsake (11-2); 3, Albemine (12-1). Katie's Cracker 13-8 fav. 14 ran. 2l, 3l. J Pearce. Tote: £10.40; £3.50, £1.50, £6.60. DF: £17.40. Tote Trifecta: £365.00. CSF: £46.28. Tricast: £494.42.

3.00 (5f) 1, **Sotonian** (A Nicholls, 7-1); 2, Hail Tone (3-1 fav); 3, Square Come (4-1). 7 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. P Felgate. Tote: £8.70; £3.00, £2.20. DF: £18.90. CSF: £23.53.

3.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Kind Sir** (A Eddery, 9-4); 2, Hibernate (6-1); 3, Approachable (33-1). Mischief (5th) 11-8 fav. 6 ran. 6l, 1¼l. B Hills. Tote: £3.30; £2.30, £2.70. DF: £6.20. CSF: £14.11.

4.00 (7f) 1, **Compton Akka** (J Quinn, 11-2); 2, Golconda (4-9 fav); 3, Tick N Pick (33-1). 6 ran. Hd, 9l. G Butler. Tote: £6.00; £2.10, £1.20. DF: £2.50. CSF: £7.88.

4.30 (1m) 1, **Royal Preview** (C Carver, 2-1); 2, Dream On Me (3-1); 3, Melchik (11-2). Done And Dusted (4th) 6-4 fav. 4 ran. 3¼l, 3l. M Bell. Tote: £3.80. DF: £6.00. CSF: £7.74.

Jackpot: £19,292.70 - part won (pool of £21,738.34 carried forward to Southwell today).

Placepot: £132.30. Quadpot: £13.30.

☐ Neil Graham yesterday won his appeal against the decision of the Lingfield Park stewards to disqualify his Azhaam in favour of Hormuz last Saturday. The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee found Antonio Polli, Azhaam's rider, guilty of careless riding and suspended him for two days (February 15 and 16).

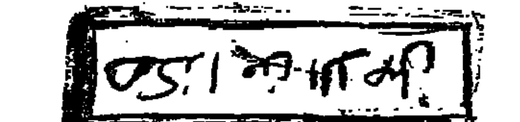
SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	90	100	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	11/2
Austria								
Kitzbühel	90	189	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-6	11/2
Obergurgl	*60*	*270*	*Good*	*Open*	*Powder*	*Snow*	*-13*	*11/2*
Soll	100	180	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-8	11/2
St Anton	150	460	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-8	11/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	140	180	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-8	11/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	175	300	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-14	11/2
Avoriaz	150	250	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-13	11/2
Flaine	190	400	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-20	11/2
La Plagne	190	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-12	11/2
La Tania	174	250	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-10	11/2
Les Arcs	190	300	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-10	11/2
Megève	170	270	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-8	9/2
Méribel	100	270	Good	Open	Powder	Wind	-8	11/2
Tignes	158	280	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-14	11/2
Val Thorens	160	270	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-17	11/2
Val d'Isère	150	320	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-20	11/2
Italy								
Cervinia	90	185	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-13	11/2
M di Campiglio	60	120	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-10	10/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	130	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-10	11/2
Davos	150	225	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-16	10/2
Grindelwald	90	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-10	11/2
Murren	170	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-12	11/2
Saas Fee	90	325	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-12	10/2
St Moritz	80	150	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-9	9/2
Verbier	130	200	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-12	11/2
Villars	*120*	*250*	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	11/2
Wengen	100	180	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-11	9/2
United States								
Aspen	128	150	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	0	10/2
Deer Valley	225	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	11/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk

L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes



FOOTBALL

Wilkinson left to sift through cinders of defeat

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

HOWARD WILKINSON might have arrived at Wembley on Wednesday night feeling like Cinderella, but an hour after international football had chewed him up and spat him out, he was wandering through the stadium looking like the wrong Buttons. His face was drained of colour when he walked into the room where the media waited for him.

"I'd like a brandy," he said as he sank into his chair. There was no brandy, so he settled for a cup of black coffee. "Just something warm," he said.

Suddenly, for the first time this week, he looked his 55 years. His jauntiness had gone, the grey hairs around his temples seemed to be more prominent. He had not lost his courtesy and he did not search for excuses, but he did look painfully aware of the scale of the problems that England face as the countdown to their European championship qualifying match against Poland next month gathers pace.

It took a side such as France to expose those problems, a side with Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff dancing between England's back four and midfield, helping to outnumber Paul Ince and Jamie Redknapp and unsettling Tony Adams and Martin Keown, who found themselves marking thin air — but it was England's failure to use possession when they finally got the ball back that worried Wilkinson most.

England do not have a Zidane or a Djorkaeff any more. They do not have anybody to link midfield and attack. Paul Gascoigne will never be able to perform that far up the field again, even if he does make an improbable return to the national team in a more limited role. Teddy Sheringham is not even the first reserve for Manchester United and Paul Scholes is being used by Alex Ferguson more as an orthodox midfield player.

This failing was cruelly exposed by the world champions in their 2-0 win. Too often, Alan Shearer and Michael Owen found themselves isolated in attack. Neither excels at dropping deep to feed the other, both search out the same ground. The space between them and the midfield lengthened as the game went on until Redknapp and David Beckham were reduced to hitting relatively aimless long passes into the ether.

"That fact alone, about just giving the ball away as we did, cost us dearly," Wilkinson said. "I can see in my mind in the first half a whole sequence of 15 or 20-yard passes where 99 times out of 100, the players concerned would say: 'I have got three choices here and, in the circumstances, the best choice is to play the first pass I see, nice and simple, get our shape back, keep the ball off them and then start to build from there.' But we just gave it away for fun.

"I don't know what the answer is at the moment. I didn't know at half-time, other than to say we can't go on like this. When they had the ball, we were defending, working hard, staying on our feet, staying with people, trying to keep our shape, staying patient, winning the ball back, thinking thank God, now let's ... then, oh Christ, we've got to do it again. That was the pattern of the evening."

Identifying the problem is one thing, fixing it another. The conundrum that will face Wilkinson, or whoever succeeds him, against Poland is whether to persist with Shearer and Owen, England's best forwards, or sacrifice one for the sake of a better collective performance. To keep both and try to accommodate a link player would unbalance the side. Owen will probably be consigned to the subsitutes' bench and Scholes would be the most likely choice to fill the link role.

If England are going to gamble, it would be wiser to do so on the left side of midfield, where Darren Anderton was so ineffectual. It would be better, surely, to allow Steve McManaman to attempt a reprise of his success on that flank during the 1996 European championship. Like Anderton, he is not left-footed, but, with his dribbling ability, he could still cause havoc.

With him and Scholes playing slightly ahead of a central midfield three that is likely to comprise Beckham, David Batty and Nicky Butt, England would at least be nearer to the alliance of silk and steel that France have already forged.

MARC ASPLAND



Wilkinson walks away from Wembley with much to ponder



One for all: Djorkaeff, Anelka, Desailly and Petit are now all plying their trade away from their homeland of France. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Superior thinking destroys England

Rob Hughes on how a nation desperate to succeed was left disappointed by ideas above its station

Among the excuses for the discovery on Wednesday that England are two goals inferior to France — and two divisions below the country's self-estimation — is the belief that too many foreigners are imported, blocking the progress of English players. Ron Atkinson said as much during his television commentary, when he suggested that no other country imported as many and that the Bosman rule was sapping England of home-grown strengths. What are the facts, the fantasy and the fallacy behind that assumption?

At the start of this season, only four clubs — Montpellier, Athletic Bilbao, Piacenza and Venezia — among the 94 teams in Europe's five leading leagues had no imported player. England employed 118 overseas players out of the 262 considered to be automatic choices in the FA Carling Premiership (about 45 per cent). Germany had 98 out of 248 in its top flight (40 per cent), Spain 106 of 276 (38 per cent), Italy 74 among 248 (30 per cent) and France 48 from 243 (20 per cent).

These figures change week by week, but in Italy, where clubs such as AC Milan scaled back on youth schemes to invest in foriegn stars, the imports have almost doubled in three years. The statistics are particularly acute in midfield, where overseas talents now outnumber Italians and where Dino Zoff, the national team coach, struggles to find players who, in the Italian phrase, "invent the game".

Italy's clubs remain dominant in Europe, but the reasons are apt to be French. Zinedine Zidane, the world player of the year, bestrode Wembley with his liberated imagination, balance and touch. Youri Djorkaeff was his alert lieutenant and Didier Deschamps his runner.

All three earn a living in the land of the lire. Emmanuel Petit, the fourth musketeer of midfield, and Patrick Vieira, the first reserve, are the property of Arsenal. Arsène Wenger, their manager, sat in front of the royal box beside Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager.

"Football is strange," Petit said on Wednesday night. "Sometimes you play with, sometimes you play against. You have to be a chameleon." Chameleon or artist, the French noticed how England wilted in the second half and how this had to do with technique.

The greater your skill, the less you strain to keep up. Zidane was the master of all. Rather than a product of French teaching, his ability grew wild in the poorest district of Marseilles and, rather than claim that coaching brought him through, those men who had the young Zidane under their wing acknowledge that it was more a question of coaxing than coaching. He had the gifts; their task was to persuade a quiet man to express himself, to impose. They did their job well.

However, it was Juventus that taught him to hurt the opposition with guile and it is in Italy, as much as in England and Germany, where politicians are searching for an answer to the Treaty of Rome, which, after the Bosman judgment, opened the floodgates to foreign players in football.

Walter Veltroni, Italy's Sports Minister, seeks to limit the impact by urging Italian clubs to field at least five Italians each game. For England, too, it may come to that. European law will not change, but clubs might be persuaded, for the good of the nation, to apply voluntary restriction.

France has the problem in reverse. The World Cup raised a previously cool French perception of football to fever pitch, but it also raised expectations. The great French players are mercenaries abroad, some of them in London. Marie-George Buffet, their Sports Minister, has prepared a Bill to dissuade managers such as Wenger from stealing players in embryo.

Wenger took Nicolas Anelka, a double goalscorer at Wembley, to Arsenal at 17 and has returned to pluck Jérémie Aladière, 16. Buffet seeks to tie youths to the club that fostered them for three years after apprenticeship, but she faces opposition from clubs that need the money.

England must adjust and the moronic spectators who reviled the *Marseillaise* on Wednesday need to learn that their abuse does nothing but stoke up the passion of visiting players. What France did, and what Hungary did in 1953, was to come to Wembley Stadium and teach England soundly that its notions of superiority are outmoded.

Phillips relishes Cup's taste of sweet and sour

Stephen Wood meets a player who won at Wembley and lost at Sutton

AT FIRST glance, it might appear that the players of Huddersfield Town have been more interested in darts this week than Derby County, their opponents tomorrow in the fifth round of the FA Cup. Indeed, David Phillips says that he has had to ignore challenges at the oche, for it is touch and go whether his back can stand the strain — "especially after holding all those pints of beer".

No matter that the Nationwide League first division side are awaiting the visit of one of the better members of the FA Carling Premiership, a team bristling with internationals — tell-tale signs of pressure or nerves are hard to find. Beneath the humour and jokes, they are relishing the prospect at the McAlpine Stadium, and few more than Phillips, 35, Huddersfield's vastly experienced midfield player. Years ago, he doubted that he would even be playing at his age.

"When I came into the game 17 years ago, you always thought your career would be over by 30," he said, "but when I was 30, I realised it wasn't like that any more and that I could go on, although it's more a case of brain against brawn as you get older.

"I wouldn't like to be like Michael Owen or David Beckham. Life is so intense for them. I've managed to surpass the goals that I have set myself and I know I'm lucky."

Phillips picks out the highlights: signing his first professional contract at Plymouth Argyle; making his first big move, to Manchester City; earning a first cap for his beloved Wales and, perhaps his most exciting achievement, being part of Coventry City's FA Cup Final win over Tottenham Hotspur in 1987.

"The whole experience was phenomenal," Phillips recalled. "We beat Manchester United on the way and then came back from two goals down to beat Leeds in the semi-final. That sort of thing doesn't happen very often.

"The club spoilt us by taking us on a couple of trips to Spain and the spirit in the team was so good we had meetings in the sauna or by popping down the pub. On the day of the final, John Sillett [the Coventry joint-manager], told us just to enjoy ourselves."



Phillips: proud to be Welsh

More painful are Phillips's recollections of Coventry's third-round exit to Sutton United in 1989. "That was a bad weekend. My son watched the highlights on television and then said to me: 'Dad, Coventry are rubbish.' It is typical of John [Sillett] that on one side of the mantelpiece he has his Cup-winner's medal and on the other some Sutton seed. That sums up the highs and lows of football."

Phillips's own memorabilia are displayed around a bar at his home in Leamington Spa, where a Wales flag flies at the bottom of the garden. It was a Welsh connection that helped attract Phillips to Huddersfield, on a free transfer from Nottingham Forest, for he has great respect for Terry Yorath, the former Wales coach, who now assists Peter Jackson, the Huddersfield manager.

The FA Cup has often been good to Phillips, who is hoping to help Huddersfield to their first quarter-final for 27 years. He was in the Plymouth team that reached the semi-finals in 1984 — and they beat Derby during that run. "I shall go into tomorrow with that positive thought," he said. "Admittedly, it was 15 years ago and I don't suppose Paolo Wanchope will be too bothered by it. He's probably never even heard of Plymouth."

Harding playing for keeps

Non-League Football
By Walter Gammie

FOR John Harding, the stakes are high. If he can haul Farnborough Town off the foot of the Nationwide Conference in their remaining 15 matches, a full-time appointment as manager will be his. The promise has been made by the consortium that expects to be installed at the Hampshire club by the end of the month and plans big improvements to Cherrywood Road if the side stay up.

Harding's appointment to the end of the season on Sunday, after the dismissal of Alan Taylor in the wake of a 5-1 home defeat by Hayes, left him two days to prepare for a trip to Dover Athletic — who rose to third in the table with a 2-1 victory. "I didn't have time to organise anything," he said. "The commitment was excellent, however. Several people said it was the best from Farnborough for some time."

Harding has already made changes. Stuart Mackenzie, the goalkeeper, will be rested; Colin Simpson, a forward, has been signed on loan from Leyton Orient; a notice of approach has been lodged for Paul Barrowcliff, of Hayes; and Harding admits interest in Mike Bignall, the forward on the transfer list at Kidderminster Harriers. Barrowcliff and Bignall are known to Harding from his days as assistant manager to Paul Fairclough at Stevenage Borough.

Farnborough play Hereford United at home tomorrow.

Arsenal hit hard for vital match

By George Caulkin

INJURIES to Martin Keown, Lee Dixon and Tony Adams, all sustained during England's 2-0 defeat by France, are threatening to leave Arsenal with only a shadow team for the FA Carling Premiership match with Manchester United, the leaders, at Old Trafford next Wednesday, a game for which Emmanuel Petit and Dennis Bergkamp are suspended.

Keown's hamstring strain will keep him out for at least three weeks, while Dixon, who was concussed in a collision with Christophe Dugarry, is already ruled out of the FA Cup fifth-round tie with Sheffield United tomorrow. Adams has broken his nose.

"We could certainly have done without these problems," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said yesterday. "It is always tough when you play Manchester United. Dixon will be touch-and-go."

Mark Hughes has been suspended for two matches, fined £2,000 and warned as to his future conduct by the Football Association after picking up his fourteenth yellow card in 24 games for Southampton this season. The Wales international, 35, has already served three suspensions and was hauled to Lancaster Gate late last year to explain his behaviour. "He clearly realises that he is going to be in very serious trouble if he receives another three cautions," an FA spokesman said.

Robert Lee, the Newcastle United and England midfield player, who has been attracting attention from Southampton, Leicester City and West Ham United, has admitted that his days at St James' Park may be numbered, despite signing a new three-year contract at the start of the season.

Vassilios Borbokis, Sheffield United's Greece international, held conciliatory talks with Steve Bruce, the United manager, yesterday after being placed on the transfer list for taking unauthorised leave. Borbokis returned to Greece without permission last week, claiming that he needed a "rest" to recover from injury.



RUGBY UNION

Wales hand Quinnell passport to Wembley

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

IF CRAIG QUINNELL comes under close scrutiny by Wales this weekend, he is only one of a clutch of players hoping to impress national selectors before the second round of the Five Nations Championship.

Quinnell has as much to gain as any of them. He was named yesterday in the Wales squad from which the XV to play Ireland at Wembley on February 20 will be named. He would surely have played against Scotland last week but for the knee *ligament injury that he sustained* on duty for Richmond against Leicester last month.

If he comes through his club's Allied Dunbar Premiership game with Sale at Reading on Sunday — he is not yet certain to play — Quinnell *is likely to earn a recall at the* expense of Ian Gough in a team requiring greater physical presence

WALES SQUAD

BACKS: **S Howarth** (Sale), **K Morgan** (Pontypridd), **M Robinson** (Swansea), **D James** (Pontypridd), **A Bateman** (Richmond), **S Gibbs** (Swansea), **M Taylor** (Swansea), **N Jenkins** (Pontypridd), **R Howley** (Cardiff), **D Llewellyn** (Ebbw Vale)

FORWARDS: **D Morris** (Swansea), **A Lewis** (Cardiff), **C Anthony** (Swansea), **D Young** (Cardiff), **J Humphreys** (Cardiff), **B Williams** (Richmond), **I Gough** (Pontypridd), **C Wyatt** (Llanelli), **C Quinnell** (Richmond), **M Voyle** (Llanelli), **C Charvis** (Swansea), **G Lewis** (Pontypridd), **M Williams** (Pontypridd), **S Quinnell** (Llanelli)

in the tight five. Quinnell, 23, played in both of Wales's pre-Christmas internationals, against South Africa and Argentina, and is the only significant addition to the party. David Young, the experienced Cardiff prop, also joins the squad of 22 that did duty against Scotland, but that is not unexpected given that he withdrew barely 24 hours before the game at Murrayfield with a damaged calf muscle. He is due to confirm his fitness against Bath tomorrow.

In essence, Graham Henry, the Wales coach, is confirming his faith in the squad selected against Scotland, showing the same consistency that Warren Gatland, his Ireland counterpart, has done. Henry may take the view that the 33-20 defeat against Scotland included two aberrations — the try from the kick-off by John Leslie and Gregor Townsend's interception score — but he will also look for improvement from some senior players.

Selectors of A and under-21 teams will also be out in force, notably at Welford Road, where 14,000 spectators are expected for the match between Leicester, the Premiership leaders, and London Irish, third in the first division and unbeaten in their past nine games. Neil Hatley and Richard Kirke, *both selected in the latest England* A training squad, will be pressing their claims in an Exiles XV to which Conor O'Shea and Justin Bishop are restored after international duty, while Nick Harvey displaces Matthew Bird at lock.

The first England A international of the season is against Scotland at Leeds next Friday and Richmond will hope to be well represented. Should Clive Woodward, the England coach, be at Reading to assess the form of David Rees, the Sale *wing, he will also have the chance* to watch a Richmond side likely to include nine players qualified for England, among them Spencer Brown on the wing and Adam Vander, the in-form flanker.

"I admit I'm biased, but I regard *Adam as the No 2 behind Neil* Back on form," John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, said. It has not been the best of weeks for Kingston, who saw his side docked two Premiership points for their failure to play Harlequins last November and lost the game away to Newcastle to the weather on Wednesday. It will now be played on April 21.

Wasps, too, have emphasised their commitment to the national cause by fielding a back division all qualified for England and all under 25, though this weekend they restore Kenny Logan, the Scotland wing, against Bedford at the expense of Shane Roiser.

In the women's game, Saracens will play their own second XV in defence of the Bread For Life Cup, which reaches the semi-final stage on Sunday. The other game takes Old Leamingtonians, who have reached the last four for the first time, to Richmond.



LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT

Vaughan, of England A, on his way to making an unbeaten 60 against Zimbabwe A in the second international at Bulawayo yesterday

England left in World Cup limbo

From Michael Henderson in Melbourne

SO FAR as England were concerned, it was Black Wednesday. Although it is sensible not to inflate a poor one-day result into a *bubble of despair, the manner of* the ten-run defeat in Sydney, when the game lay within their embrace, shocked them to the quick. It was a chastened group of players that arrived in Melbourne.

Conceivably, it might be a knock-*out blow. England began the trian*gular tournament brightly, ended the long qualifying process with four defeats out of five and needed to win the first final at the Sydney Cricket Ground to prove to themselves, no less than Australia, that *their appetite was undiminished.*

They failed, and it makes the task of beating Australia in the remaining two matches all the more formidable. With the World Cup three months away, not all the questions have been answered satisfactorily. England will enjoy home advantage in that competition and the pitches (and balls) will be different to the conditions that prevail in Australia, but the composition of the first-choice XI has become more sketchy, not less.

At this stage of their preparations, when they hoped that it would be a case of tidying things up, they find themselves in a muddle. David Graveney, the manager of this part of the tour, denied that there had been any recriminations after the way that England threw it away, but, *to his credit, he did not* disguise the depth of feeling in the dressing-room.

"There is a difference between losing and being beaten," he said. "Only once in this competition have we been beaten. In every *other case, we have contributed to* our own defeat."

England seem to get the collywobbles every time they come within touching distance of their target against bowlers such as Warne and McGrath. To lose six wickets for 24 runs in Sydney, after they had bowled and fielded so well, *was unpardonable — and the fact* that it occurs so frequently is of genuine concern. A good deal of rethinking will take place before the party of 15 is named for the World Cup and some players pencilled in may find a line through their candidature. *Others may receive an un*expected summons.

Almost overnight, Vince Wells, who added 33 handy runs to his three wickets on Wednesday, finds himself in an advanced position that he can hardly have dreamt of.

The Leicestershire all-rounder was whisked here from club cricket in New Zealand to augment the party as a "just-in-case" selection and he *must feel like a child in Hamley's* on Christmas Eve.

He plays down suggestions that he will be in the World Cup party. "At the moment, all I hope is to hear my name read out before the game," he said. "To have a chance of being involved in a World Cup is something players dream about."

Wells has had an interesting career. As a schoolboy footballer, he was on Leyton Orient's books for four years, playing centre forward. He switched to cricket in his native Kent, but moving to Leicestershire in 1992 was the making of him. He played a full part in the championship win of 1996 and when they won it again last year.

Now, he is earning respect from his England colleagues. "I have had good support from the other lads to play my natural game," he said. "At my age [33], I don't have too much to lose and have quite a lot to gain. It's nice to know they feel I am capable of doing a job."

LINKS

TELEVISION:
Sky Sports 2, 7.30am (live), 3pm (highlights)

☐ The Times one-day series hotline — 0891 881 461. Reports, updates and commentary. Calls cost 50p per minute

Bulbeck opts for safety

WELLINGTON (final day of four): New Zealand Under-19 drew with England Under-19

A TENSE day of oscillating fortunes ended tamely when both captains decided that enough was enough with one over of the final session still to be bowled and England 30 runs short of victory (John Stern writes). Both sides can feel that opportunities were missed in the pursuit of victory, but the result means that England are 1-0 up in the series with one match to play.

Having been set 221 to win, England took tea at 133 for five. All four results were still possible and, crucially for the touring side, Michael Gough was still there on 61, having added 45 for the sixth wicket with Matt Bulbeck.

However, when Gough miscued James Franklin to extra cover and departed for 69, Bulbeck and Joe Tucker, two Somerset bowlers both batting with runners, opted for the safety of a draw, which they achieved comfortably, Bulbeck finishing unbeaten on 50.

CRICKET

Zimbabwe are sent spinning by Swann

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Bulawayo

BULAWAYO (third day of five): England A, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 282 runs ahead of Zimbabwe A

IT LASTED only five overs and one ball, but Graeme Swann's spell of four wickets for six runs shortly after lunch yesterday gave England A an advantage in this second international that should prove decisive. Already, their lead stands at 282 and, with the probability of quick runs this morning, Zimbabwe A will be made to bat the best part of two days to save this match. With the weather for once on this tour set fair, their fate should already be sealed.

Swann's performance was more remarkable for the fact that at lunch his figures read 10-1-46-0. In 31 balls after the interval, the off spinner dismissed Bryan Strang, Andy Whittall and Dirk Viljoen, who all perished sweeping, and Adam Huckle, caught, bat-pad, by Robert Key. Zimbabwe A, at one *stage 202 for five, had tumbled to* 223 all out, giving England a first-innings lead of 160.

The significant wicket in the spell was that of the left-handed Viljoen, who was comfortably the most assured of the batsmen during his *innings of 57. Viljoen suffered the* indignity of a pair on his only Test match appearance, when opening against Pakistan, but, on the evidence of this series, it should not be long before he earns himself an extended run in the national team.

The only other innings of note from Zimbabwe A came from Blignaut, who clattered four sixes, two off Swann, before being run out after a mix-up with Viljoen. Stuart Carlisle's promising contribution of 39 came to an end when, carving *Steve Harmison* to third man, Mal Loye held a spectacular, left-handed catch on the boundary.

Michael Vaughan and Darren Maddy, the opening batsmen, extended the lead to 210 in the England A second innings before Maddy edged Strang to the wicket-keeper. Vaughan was unruffled by his departure and reached the close undefeated on 60.

Vaughan got stuck on 49 for more than half an hour, during which time two wickets fell. Loye miscued as he attempted to hit Andy Whittall over the top and Key was desperately unlucky when a full-blooded pull off the same bowler deflected off Viljoen to Guy Whittall at mid-wicket.

MOTOR RALLYING

Finns best suited to the snow

From Jeremy Hart in Karlstad, Sweden

TOMMI MAKINEN, the world rally champion, has an air of invincibility as he starts the Swedish Rally in Karlstad today. The Finn has been unbeatable in the race for the championship for the past three years and, in the past seven months, has failed to win only once.

"For Finland last summer, we suddenly found a good feeling for the car and since then it has been the car to beat," Makinen, 34, said, overlooking, for a moment, the fact that his incredible run of good results has been partly due to misfortunes suffered by his rivals.

"In the end, it is the result that matters," he said, "but the others' bad luck has made them angry. Carlos [Sainz] went out in Monte Carlo just weeks after he stopped just before the finish of the rally of Great Britain. He is mad now and wants to beat me."

Sainz, driving a Toyota, must make history if he is to win in Sweden on Sunday. No non-Scandinavian has won the snow rally. More likely to challenge the Finn in the second round of the world championship are two of his countrymen — Marcus Gronholm, in the fast improving SEAT, and Juha Kankkunen, who finished second in Monte Carlo in his first rally for Subaru.

"There is less snow that normal, which might give the southern Europeans a bit of help, but this is still an event where the Vikings dominate," Kankkunen said.

Richard Burns, of Subaru, and Colin McRae, of Ford, both of Great Britain, have done well in Sweden. Last year, Burns set three fastest stage times. McRae could yet shock the rally world after a month of controversy surrounding his Martini Ford Focus's oversized water pump. The pump has been replaced by a standard unit, but the Scot is confident that performance will not suffer.

BOWLS

Sutherland and Jones drop out

By David Rhys Jones

ANN *Sutherland and Rita* Jones were celebrating last night after winning the Welsh women's indoor fours and triples respectively, but they will not be representing Wales in the British Isles championships in Belfast next month.

Sutherland, from the Torfaen club in Cwmbran, and Jones, who plays for Islwyn in Pontllanfraith, have been selected to play outdoors in the Atlantic Rim Games in Cape Town and will have left for South Africa when the British event gets under way.

Scheduling an international outdoor event during the indoor season has not gone down well with the officials of the indoor game, who claim that their flagship event has been devalued.

At least Torfaen will be represented in the British triples and Islwyn in the fours, because substitutes will be found for Sutherland and Jones, but the Scotland bowlers have been left aggrieved. Margaret Letham, the new Scottish indoor singles champion, will be in Cape Town, attempting to add Atlantic medals to her Commonwealth Games pairs gold. Substitutions are not *allowed in the singles, so Scot*land will miss out on the chance of retaining the British title, which was won by Caroline McAllister last winter.

No problems for Wales in that department: Aeres Davies, the first Bro Ddyfi player to win a national title, is not in the Wales Atlantic Rim team. Davies defeated Val Howell, of Merthyr Tydfil, 21-13, in the singles final at the Bro Myrddin club, Carmarthen, yesterday, while Lisa Oliver, from Llanelli, beat Paula Summerfield, 21-18, to win the under-25 crown. Summerfield, 24, hit back to win the pairs with Joanna Jones, her club colleague, who is 23. The Radnorshire players became the youngest pair to win the title.

HOCKEY

Smith to reinforce Old Loughtonians

By Sydney Friskin and Cathy Harris

SCOTT SMITH returns from indoor activities with Canada to rejoin Old Loughtonians for two matches in the National League premier division this weekend, against East Grinstead at home tomorrow *and Canterbury away on Sun*day.

Smith missed the match against Cannock last week, when Old Loughtonians lost 6-2. "Scott's return will strengthen our attack," Nigel Creswell, the Old Loughtonians manager, said yesterday. "He will join forces with Thompson, who scored the two goals against Cannock from short corners."

Canterbury, the league leaders, travel to Oxshott tomorrow to play Teddington, whose defence is reinforced by the return of Garrard from injury. Colclough is still injured, however.

Canterbury have not yet solved all their own injury problems. Hacker is back at *centre half, but Kerly Math*ews and Danny Laslett will be missing.

Ipswich, the women's premier division leaders, who could field only 11 fit players last week, still have an extended in*jury list for their league and* EHA Cup double-header against Clifton this weekend. Sandie Lister, their captain, said that Ipswich, the only undefeated side in the division, are confident that Colleen Adcock, the defender, will play some part in both matches after recovering from a back injury. Jane Cook returns, but Sarah Bamfield, the striker, and Lucy Youngs, the former England midfielder, are ruled out.

Lister said: "It will be tough because Clifton are anxious to secure a place in the top four and qualify for the play-offs."

Pauline Robertson, the Scotland captain, is expecting her first child and will miss the European championship in August.

NETBALL

Carpenter fights to regain fitness

By Cathy Harris

LYN CARPENTER, the Surrey and England shooter, is struggling to be fit in time for the one-off international against South Africa in Manchester on February 22 after tearing ankle ligaments *in a county match last week.*

Carpenter is attending a four-week training camp with the England squad in Kettering, but has not trained since sustaining the injury. Carpenter, a former Great Britain basketball international, said: "I snapped three ligaments three years ago and, as soon as it happened, my first thought was I might miss the Springbok game. I'm optimistic about my chances, but it's terribly disappointing missing all the training."

The good news for Mary Beardwood, the England coach, is that Lorraine Law, the Essex Met shooter, who missed England's 55-26 victory over *Wales* last month because of a similar ligament *injury, is making an excellent* recovery and is certain to be included against South Africa.

The accuracy of England's shooting against Wales was disappointing and it is an area that Marg Caldow, the former *Australia captain, who is* giving the England squad tuition in their preparations for the World championship in New Zealand in September, has been concentrating on.

"The attacking third is still giving away too much possession," Caldow said. "If England want to be serious contenders, they must eliminate this fault."

For the shooters, developing a technique that will hold up *under pressure has been a* critical area. "The technical training prepares us to be 100 per cent confident when we walk on court," Carpenter said. "That's the difference between us and Australia and *New Zealand — it's a real sur*prise to them when they miss."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Paris-Nice pays for drug affair

■ **CYCLING:** The fall-out from the 1998 Tour de France doping scandals has stretched *to the Paris-Nice classic, the* second-most important stage race in France. The 1999 Paris-Nice is suffering a significant drop in sponsorship and in participation from the world's *leading riders. Laurent* Jalabert, the French champion and three times a Paris-Nice winner, will miss the traditional opener to the season, which begins on March 7, after the decision of ONCE, *his Spanish team, not* to venture on to French soil as police investigations continue into drugs in cycling. "It's sad that we have come to this," Josette Leuillot, the race organiser, said.

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** The new Gateshead Thunder JJB Super League club yesterday announced a £500,000 sponsorship with Northern Electric and Gas over three years. Hospitality boxes for the opening fixture against Leeds Rhinos at Gateshead International Stadium on March 7 are sold out and two further kit sponsors are to be announced shortly.

■ **CRICKET:** Cardigan Connor, 37, the Hampshire pace bowler, has been forced to retire from first-class cricket because of a long-term knee injury. Connor has taken 1,019 wickets in all *competitions for Hampshire* since making his debut in 1984, including 614 in the first-class game.

■ **GOLF:** Two more home venues have been announced for the Curtis Cup women's amateur match against the United States. Formby will host the event in 2004 and the Old course at St Andrews in 2008. The United States won back the trophy from Great Britain and Ireland last August in Minneapolis.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MALMO, Sweden: Brogelan indoor meeting: Selected events: Men: 60m: 1, J Gardener (GB) 6.54sec; 2, R Stewart (Jam) 6.58; 3, L Christie (GB) 6.60; 4, D Campbell (GB) 6.73. **200m:** 1, K Little (US) 20.81; 2, M Urbas (Pol) 21.08; 3, Campbell 21.09. **400m:** 1, J Baulch (GB) 46.78; 2, P Toledo (Mex) 47.33; 3, O Douglas (Nor) 49.05. **Women: Pole vault:** 1, A Balakhonova (Ukr) 4.30m; 2, Sun Caiyun (China) 4.20; 3, V Flosadottir (Ice) 4.10. **British placing:** 5, J Whitlock (GB) 4.0

BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Semi-finals, first leg: Sheffield Sharks 77 Manchester Giants 81; Derby Storm 88 Leicester Riders 75.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 77 Cleveland 87; New Jersey 81 Orlando 89; New York 101 Washington 88; Houston 92 Sacramento 82; Denver 98 Los Angeles Lakers 103; Golden State 82 Seattle 89; Portland 100 Indiana 92; Vancouver 105 Los Angeles Clippers 99

CRICKET

International matches

Zimbabwe A v England A

BULAWAYO (fourth day of five): England A, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 282 runs ahead of Zimbabwe A

ENGLAND A: First Innings 383 (M B Loye 133, V S Solanki 65, D L Maddy 54; A R Whittall 4 for 88; B C Strang 4 for 107)

Second Innings

*M P Vaughan not out	60
D L Maddy c Gurr b Strang	28
M B Loye c Carlisle b A R Whittall	9
R W T Key c G J Whittall b A R Whittall	3
A Flintoff not out	21
Extras (nb 1)	1
Total (3 wkts)	122

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-87, 3-90.

BOWLING: Strang 14-5-37-1; Blignaut 4-2-18-0; G J Whittall 10-5-25-0; A R Whittall 9-2-27-2; Huckle 9-3-17-0.

ZIMBABWE A: First Innings

T R Gripper c Read b Flintoff	12
C B Wishart lbw b Cosker	34
T N Madondo c Swann b Harmison	5
G J Whittall b Cosker	0
S V Carlisle c Loye b Harmison	39
D P Viljoen c Maddy b Swann	57
A M Blignaut run out	58
B C Strang c Harmison b Swann	0
*A R Whittall c Key b Swann	0
† C P Gurr not out	4
A G Huckle c Key b Swann	0
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 1, nb 5)	14
Total	223

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-54, 3-55, 4-55, 5-125, 6-202, 7-208, 8-208, 9-219.

BOWLING: Lewry 18-6-52-0; Harmison 17-6-29-2; Flintoff 13-5-25-1; Cosker 20-5-57-2; Swann 16.1-5-52-4.

Umpires: G R Evans and E J Gilmour

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

WELLINGTON (final day of four): England Under-19 drew with New Zealand Under-19

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First Innings 110 (J R Tucker 5 for 35)

Second Innings

M Papps lbw b Bridge	127
T McIntosh lbw b Haywood	81
B Patton c Wallace b Tucker	6
*J I Englefield c Wallace b Whiley	45
J McNamee lbw b Bridge	7
J E G Franklin b Bridge	9
† P McGlashan b Dawson	23
M Hendry c Wallace b Bridge	8
B Martin not out	2
L Hammond c sub b Dawson	0
H Shaw c Gough b Dawson	0
Extras (b 15, lb 12)	27
Total	335

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-144, 2-172, 3-249, 4-275, 5-284, 6-303, 7-321, 8-335, 9-335.

BOWLING: Bulbeck 23-8-47-0; Whiley 27-7-55-1; Haywood 17.2-6-52-1; Tucker 14.4-4-45-1; Dawson 45.4-20-64-3; Bridge 44-24-45-4.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 225 (M A Gough 116; H Shaw 5 for 59)

Second Innings

*M A Gough c sub b Franklin	69
I N Flanagan c and b Shaw	12
I R Bell lbw b Martin	10
M A Carberry lbw b Martin	0
G R Haywood c Papps b Martin	0
R K J Dawson b Shaw	6
M P L Bulbeck not out	50
J R Tucker not out	6
Extras (b 14, lb 7, w 1, nb 16)	38
Total (6 wkts)	191

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-58, 3-58, 4-58, 5-88, 6-149.

BOWLING: Shaw 20-4-49-2; Hammond 9.4-1-31-0; Hendry 0.2-0-0-0; Martin 32-17-47-3; Franklin 15-5-41-1; Papps 1-0-2-0.

Umpires: R Garland and R D S Alexander

TOUR MATCH: Kochi (first day of three): Pakistanis 247-9 dec (Moin Khan 67, Inzamam-ul-Haq 65); Indian Board President's XI 35-0

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 0 France 2 (at Wembley); Ireland 2 Paraguay 0 (at Lansdowne Road); Tunisia 0 Sweden 1 (in Tunis); Portugal 0 Holland 0 (in Paris); Croatia 0 Denmark 1 (in Split); Italy 0 Norway 0 (in Pisa); Argentina 1 Mexico 0 (in Los Angeles); Peru 1 Ecuador 2 (in Lima); Jamaica 1 Costa Rica 1 (in Kingston)
RYMAN LEAGUE: Vandanel Trophy: Second round: Harlow 0 Edgware 1
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Barnet 0 Wycombe 3; Charlton 4 Cambridge 5; Colchester 0 Swindon 1; Southampton 7 Oxford 1; Brighton 0 Millwall 0
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 2 Sheffield Wed 0; Manchester City 0 Port Vale 0. **Second division:** Huddersfield 2 Scarborough 3. **League Cup: Group six:** Notts County 0 Bradford 2
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipswich Wanderers 1 Sudbury Town 4
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Challenge Trophy: Third round: Ruislip Manor 2 Hanwell 1
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Chelsea 1 Newcastle 1; Nottm Forest 1 Sunderland 1
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Third-round replay: Gainsborough 0 Blyth Spartans 1
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Pagham 0 East Preston 3
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Cray 2 Canterbury 1

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester Storm 6 Nottingham Panthers 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 4 St Louis 5; Toronto 5 Carolina 6; Chicago 2 San Jose 5; Phoenix 3 Los Angeles 0; Anaheim 5 Philadelphia 4

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cornwall 31 Royal Navy 10; Cambridge University 42 Army 25
WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Neath 24 Llanelli 21

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Hampton 24 Tiffin 12; St Benedict's 24 Gunnersbury 10

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Benson and Hedges Masters: Second round: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 6-5; M King (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-5. **Quarter-final:** A McManus (Scot) bt M Williams (Wales) 6-4

TENNIS

DUBAI OPEN: Second round: F Clavet (Sp) bt G Rusedski (GB) 3-6, 7-5, 6-2; G Kuerten (Br) bt J van Herck (Bel) 6-3, 6-2; J Golmard (Fr) bt K Kucera (Slovak) 7-6, 6-1; T Henman (GB) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 7-6.
SAN JOSE, California: Sybase Open: First round: R Delgado (Par) bt B Steven (NZ) 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; M Rodriguez (Arg) bt A Hernandez (Mex) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3. **Second round:** B Karbacher (Ger) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3; C Ruud (Nor) bt P Goldstein (US) 6-1, 7-6; C Mamiit (US) bt A Agassi (US) 0-6, 6-6 (Agassi defaulted); M Chang (US) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-4, 7-6

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League

Second division

Colchester v Wigan (7.45)

Third division

Rochdale v Hull (7.45)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Mansfield v Shrewsbury (1.30)
***CENTENARY SHIELD INTERNATIONAL* MATCH** (under-18): England v Northern Ireland (at Darlington, 7.15).

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Finn Harps (7.45); Bray v Cork (7.45); Shelbourne v Shamrock (7.35); Waterford v UCD (7.45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fourth round

Wakefield v Batley (8.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v Derby Storm (7.30); Sheffield Sharks v Milton Keynes Lions (7.45)

GOLF: BALLESTEROS BLOWS HOT AND COLD ON DAY OF CONTRASTS

Garcia gets just deserts

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBAI

GOLF is a game of such longevity that it constantly juxtaposes youthful promise and gnarled experience. That was the case when Nick Faldo and Justin Rose were competing in a tournament in Johannesburg last month. It was also the case yesterday with Severiano Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia in the first round of the Desert Classic at the Dubai Creek course.

A few years ago, if one Spaniard had scored 68 and the other 78, it would have been Ballesteros to whom you attributed the four-under-par score and Garcia the six over. These days, Ballesteros, 41, is a professional who plays like an amateur; Garcia, 19, is the one who looks, talks and scores as well as a professional.

Garcia is a professional in all but name. He plays full-time and has all the trappings of one who earns his living from the game. He is the most exciting amateur in world golf since Tiger Woods. He won eight events last year, including the Amateur Championship, but will not defend his title in June. The only question is when he will turn professional and the informed betting is after the Masters, perhaps at the Spanish Open two weeks later.

There seems to be no reason to wait any longer. He has served his apprenticeship and, as he demonstrated in this, his second tournament of the year, having finished third behind two professionals in his first, he is good enough to compete against anyone.

His round was full of big hitting, deft work around the greens and it positively brimmed with youthful promise. The fairways here are very narrow and the rough very thick. Hit the ball into the rough and it is almost certainly a wasted stroke. Garcia missed only five fairways. He holed three putts of 8ft or less, one of 15ft and one of 25ft.

"Something tells me Seve is going to come back," Garcia said in a gesture of loyalty to his countryman. "He probably will not be the player he was, but I'm sure he's going to win some tournaments."

On this evidence, though, Ballesteros has no chance of regaining his best form. He was wild off the tee and saved himself only with a short game that remains magical, one of golf's wonders.

Never was this better demonstrated than on the 11th, where he hit the wildest drive I have seen a professional hit. It landed plumb in the middle of the 12th fairway, more than 100 yards from the middle of his intended target. Yet his second shot floated over an enormous waste bunker and some palm trees to within 8ft of the hole. Sadly, he missed the putt after being the farthest from the green after the drives and the nearest to the flag after his second.

All in all, it was not a very good day for former heroes. Nick Faldo had an inspired day on the greens, taking only 26 putts. This is just as well, because if he had been putting as badly as he was playing from tee to green, his total of 75, three over par, would have been much worse.

He is eight strokes behind Paul McGinley and Philip Price, the leaders, and has his work cut out to reach the last two rounds of this tournament, in which his aim is to finish in the top ten in order to climb up the world rankings.


TOM ABLE GREEN / ALLSPORT

Price, of Wales, plays from the 15th fairway as he moves to a share of the lead in Dubai

FIRST-ROUND SCORES

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 67: P Price, P McGinley. 68: W Riley (Aus), S Garcia (Sp), A Cejka (Ger). 69: P Dowmie, W Bennett, D Howell, R May (US), J Sandelin (Swe), S Tinning (Den), J M Olazábal (Sp), P Affleck, F Cea (Sp), T Levet (Fr), B Lane. 70: C Montgomerie, A Wall, E Romero (Arg), J Spence, T Immelman (SA), S Webster, S Struver (Ger), D Clarke, E Fryatt, R Russell, T Gögele (Ger), F Lindgren (Swe). 71: D Gilford, P Nyman (Swe), M Jonzon (Swe), G Owen, D Robertson, M Mouland, S Micheel (US), Zhang Lian-wei (China), A Coltart, M Campbell (NZ), E Darcy. 72: G Brand Jr, T Bjorn (Den), M Roe, S Kjeldsen (Den), L Westwood, C Rocca (It), V Phillips, Choi Kyoung-ju (S Kor), R Green (Aus), G Orr, R McFarlane, J Haeggman (Swe), P-U Johansson (Swe), M O'Meara, B Ruangkit (Thai), S Field, J Rivero (Sp), P Harrington, G Evans. 73: M Lanner (Swe), A Cabrera (Arg), M Pilkington, M Mackenzie, C Whitelaw (SA), M A Jiménez (Sp), G Norquist (US), P Baker, J Bickerton, D Cooper, J Randhawa (India), P Broadhurst, P Fulke (Swe), R Karlsson (Swe), M James, I Garbutt, P Haugsrud (Nor), J Payne. 74: R Wessels (SA), J Lomas, D Smyth, J Mellor, P Sjoland (Swe), S Henderson, R Gonzalez (Arg).

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www europeantour com

TELEVISION:
Sky Sports 1, 10am (live) 7 30pm (highlights)

SAILING

Gremlins leave luckless Hall defeated

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Josh Hall set sail from Auckland in *Gartmore Investment Management*, he hoped that his luck would turn after a disappointing first leg in the Around Alone Race and then an even worse second leg through the Southern Ocean. Instead, his campaign is effectively over after *Gartmore* was dismasted just four days into the third stage of the race.

Hall was lying in fourth and last place in Class 1, 120 miles behind Marc Thiercelin, in *Somewhere*, the leg leader, as the fleet headed south past the Chatham Islands and into the Southern Ocean at the start of the wild ride east towards Cape Horn. All appeared to be well until late on Wednesday, when the mast on *Gartmore* came crashing down in steep seas and at least 35 knots of wind.

Immediately before the dismasting, Hall, who is suffering from flu, had reported that his Groupe Finot 60 was travelling at between 15-20 knots in building seas and a 30-knot south-westerly. After the trials of the second leg, when *Gartmore* crash-gybed at the mercy of defective compasses, Hall was optimistic that he had got his boat on track — but it was not to be.

The failure of the rig on *Gartmore* may be the result of damage caused during repeated crash-gybes on the second leg. Whatever the reason, the dismasting marks the end of a very disappointing race for Hall.

He completed the first leg two days off the pace but then, on the second leg, the problems came thick and fast. The rudder played up, there were problems with the mainsail and with the pilots and, by Auckland, Hall had slipped nearly a week behind the leader. His dismasting brings to an end British interest in Class 1 after Mike Golding ran aground in *Team Group 4* while on his way into Auckland.

In Class 2, Mike Garside, in *Magellan Alpha*, is a long way behind the leader, JP Mouligne, of France in *Cray Valley*. Robin Davie, his British counterpart, in *South Carolina*, retired yesterday after reaching Auckland two days after the other 11 skippers had set sail for Punte del Este.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

HOMRAI
(c) A large black-and-white hornbill. Buceros bicornis, which is found from India to Sumatra. The Nepalese name. "The homrai reaches its full size in four and [sic] five years. It is gregarious and sedate."

NASSA
(c) The shell of a marine gastropod of the genus once so called, now included in the genus Nassarius. A basket shell. In Latin nassa means a basket fish-trap. "The rough nassa. A very elegantly coronated species, with the spine rising into a sharp turret."

HAIKAL
(b) The central chapel of three forming the sanctuary of a Coptic church. Also, attributively, in haikal screen, a screen, often elaborately carved or decorated, which separates the haikal from the body of the church. The Coptic word. "A church of the Coptic rite has a distinctive arrangement. Within the triple-domed sanctuary (haikal) are three altars. On the haikal-screen are a few pictures."

NOMIC
(c) Something that pertains to or is concerned with a discoverable scientific or logical law. In Greek, nomos means a law. A term of philosophical and mathematical jargon. "This nomological necessity of laws is generally called nomic necessity."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. ... Bxg2+!; 2. Kxg2 Rg8+ and now White either gets mated or allows 3. Kf3 Qxd1+ when his queen goes.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Now this won't hurt a bit

Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
BBC2, 8.00pm (not Northern Ireland)

It's difficult not to trust that nice GP (and writer/comedian) Phil Hammond. His bedside manner is impeccable with the painful facts and fun when fun is called for. Tonight he returns with an extraordinary report on bowel cancer which suggests that your chance of complete recovery — should you be so cursed — can vary by as much as 700% depending on your surgeon. The surgeons with the highest success rate use a method called TME — pioneered in Britain, a proven triumph in Sweden and Holland — yet only practiced here on a very limited scale. Why? Then there's a rundown on herbal remedies which really do work and a cure for dizziness which has to be seen to be believed. Fun? Well, apparently you can judge the intelligence of a man by his amount of body hair — the more the better. "But Einstein had none at all," says our man with the stethoscope.

Days Like These
ITV, 8.30pm

Take a dollop of *The Young Ones*, polish it with a dose of *Friends*, add a touch of *Men Behaving Badly* and bingo — a new sitcom is born. The two things which make this a bit different (apart from the fact that episode one can't hold a candle to any of the aforementioned) is that the six teenagers involved (all relative unknowns) live in, er, Luton and it's 1976. So cue long hair, flared jeans and of course 1970s music (though not enough of it). It's early days to pre-judge and it has to be said that the kids — at war with their parents, hankering after cars and sex etc — are really rather clean-living and nice. The producer (John Bartlett) and the director (Bob Spiers) have dozens of solid hits to their credit, so here's hoping . . .

Garden Stories: Cycles
BBC2, 8.30pm

In tonight's final programme we watch the cycle of the seasons through the eyes of very young gardeners (Spring: New Beginnings), the newly retired (Summer: Coming of Age), the elderly (Autumn: A Lifetime's Harvest) and the very old (Winter: Laid to Rest). Most moving are the Yorkshireman Peter Jackson, whose wife did all the gardening until she died — and, at her request, was buried there. "I'll join her when my time comes". And then there's the resting actor, John Tordoff who, missing the stage, has virtually transformed his water garden into a Victorian set. Says 93-year old gardener Lady Daphne Heald: "There's an oak tree in my garden which was planted by monks in 1400. It's still blooming and must encourage all of us to plant for the future as well as for the joys of planting for ourselves." A perfect programme.

Rosie Marcel and Max Wrottesley star in *Days Like These* (ITV, 8.30pm)

Britains Worst . . . Drivers
ITV, 9.00pm

As if we haven't had enough motoring horror stories along comes this one for the *Britain's Worst* . . . series. It's still being edited as we go to press but I can give you a taste from the publicity: "Hear the incredible tale of a Sheffield resident who cheated death when a Metro driven by a teenage joy-rider careered through his front window . . ." ". . . meet the arthritic, alchoholic great grandfather who terrorises residents in Great Yarmouth with his electric invalid buggy . . ." (Apparently magistrates are powerless to ban him because, as the law stands, his £2,500, 24-volt buggy doesn't have to be licensed). And then there's "Britain's most banned motorist, Eddie Flahive, who has been convicted of almost 150 motoring offences, 67 for driving while disqualified.
Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Sunny Side Up
Radio 4, 11.30am

A terrific cast has been assembled for this new six-part comedy series and the script, by Scott Cherry, shows every sign in episode one of giving the cast something to get their teeth into. Thelma Barlow, Keith Barron, Clive Swift, Bryan Pringle, Kenneth Cranham and David Ross play the leads in what is essentially the story of the Glee Boys, the most accomplished barber shop quartet in Nottingham. Today's particular crisis concerns one of the quartet wanting to leave: "I run a very demanding business. I'm married to a woman who expects 12 holidays a year, I don't have time to mess around." Worse yet, the defector seems to have more time than he owns up to for he is planning to join a rival quartet.

Front Page Sport
Radio 4, 11.30pm

This series about the long history of sports migration from the back pages to those at the front is proving to be a useful social, as well as sporting, history. Tonight's programme is a good example, for Rob Bonnet takes us back to the turbulent late 1960s when upheaval was all around and sporting figures were inevitably dragged into wider issues. None more so than Mohammed Ali, whose refusal to fight in the Vietnam war was conveyed in the fateful words: "I ain't got no quarrel with those Viet Cong." That cost Ali his world heavyweight title and he was banned from the ring for three and a half years, during which time American opinion shifted so firmly against the Vietnam war that Ali moved from villain to hero.
Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Des Lynam **7.00** Morley at the Musicals (2/6) **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night **9.15** Frankenstein (5/6) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** David Jacobs **11.00** Believe it or Not (3/4) **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **4.00** Late Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell. Includes reports from the closing stages of the second final in the one-day triangular series in Melbourne **12.00pm** The Midday News with Annie Webster **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra. Presented by Susan Bookbinder **7.30** Brian Moore's Sportsnight. Brian Moore and studio guests look ahead to the weekend's FA Cup ties **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** SportZone **8.00** Jackie Mason Live from New York **10.00** Dave Barrett **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Steve Power

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Boyhood **8.35** Science in Action **9.00** World News **9.05** The Art of Translating **9.20** John Peel **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** On Your Behalf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Science in Action **2.30** Best on Record **3.00** World News **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Performance **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Altern ative **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.00** World News **7.05** Science in Action **7.30** On Your Behalf **7.45** Off the Shelf: Boyhood **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Best on Record **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Alternative **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Science in Action **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Books **2.00** The World Today **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00** Concerto. Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1 in E flat major) **3.00** Jane Markham. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue); William Levi Dawson (Negro Folk Symphony); Hanson (Symphony No 2) **11.00** Mappin at Night. Music and conversation with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1 in E flat major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of the world premiere of Nick Darke's new play, *The Riot*, at the National Theatre
9.00 Masterworks with Penny Gore. Includes Johann Strauss, son (Pizzicato Polka, with Josef Strauss; Thunder and Lightning Polka); Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances); Granados (The Maiden and the Nightingale, Goyescas)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Leonard Slatkin
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Femmes Fatales Peggy Reynolds tells the story of Josephine Baker
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Telemann
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Coull Quartet. Elgar (String Quartet in E minor, Op 83); Beethoven (String Quartet in B flat, Op 18 No 6) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Symphony Orchestra under Dmitri Kitaenko and Andras Ligeti, Stephen Kovacevich, piano. Wagner (Overture: Rainulf and Adelasia); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor); Shostakovich (Symphony No 5)
4.00 Music Restored (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty
7.30 Performance on 3 Chris Wines introduces a concert given last night at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Daneman, soprano, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, under Monica Huggett, violin. Leclair (Violin Concerto in A, Op 7 No 6); Charpentier (Le Malade Imaginaire); Clerambault (Cantata: Le Soleil, Vainqueir des Nuages); Rameau (Suite: Dardenus)
9.20 Postscript: Magnum at the Millennium Gill Pyrah considers Magnum's work as art (5/5) (r)
9.45 Hanns Eisler Holderlin settings composed in Hollywood in 1943, sung by Wolfgang Holzmair, baritone, with Peter Stamm, piano
10.00 Hear and Now Verity Sharp introduces *Darkness Visible*, a concert showcasing the music of Simon Holt, Morton Feldman and Elliott Carter
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) (r)
12.00am Composer of the Week: Liszt (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. **1.00** Liszt (The Legend of St Elisabeth). Henrietta Lednarova, soprano, Hana Stolfova-Bandova, mezzo, Czech Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra under Aldo Ceccalo **3.05** Boccherini (Guitar Quintet in C, G453, La Ritirata di Madrid) **3.35** Haydn (Symphony No 44 in E minor, Trauer) **4.10** Szymanowski (String Quartet No 2, Op 56 **4.50** Gabrieli (Ricercar del Primo Tono) **5.00** Mozart (Divertimento in D, K136) **5.40** Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1)

RADIO 4

5.35am Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor.
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of developments
9.00 Desert Island Discs The Hungarian pianist Andras Schiff is Sue Lawley's castaway (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Tulip Anna Pavord reads the final part of her history of the popular flowe (r)
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Serenading The pianist Simon Townley attempts to find the truth behind the image of a lover
11.30 Sunny Side Up by Scott Cherry. A barbershop quartet struggles to survive without a key member. Starring Keith Barron, Bryan Pringle and Clive Swift. See Choice (1/6)
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslenka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Larkrise and Beyond First part of Flora Thompson's evocation of late 19th-century country life. With Maggie Steed, Lexi Rose and Adjoa Andoh
3.00 Changing Places New series Howard Stableford investigates land reclamation schemes designed to benefit local communities in Doncaster and Nelson (1/5)
3.30 Going, Going, Gone (5/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 30 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey
4.00 Bookclub James Naughtie and his guests discuss John le Carre's Cold War spy trilogy (r)
4.40 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten Political farce, by Steve Nallon and Turan Ali. New Labour's selection committees get a lesson in diversity from Charles Darwin. Starring Maggie Steed and Mark Williams. Last in series (6/6)
7.00 The Archers Hayley's independence day
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the nightly arts programme
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour*
8.00 Any Questions? Panellists including Margaret Beckett MP, Anthony Howard of *The Times* and Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, respond to questions from an audience in Alfreton, Derbyshire
8.45 Letter from America with Alistair Cooke
9.00 The Friday Play: One Young Man Fact-based drama by Jeremy Weller, about a remand prisoner's death in Saughton Prison in 1993, and relatives' struggle to uncover what really happened. Performed by actors and members of the family, and followed by a discussion of the issues raised, chaired by Edi Stark
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories Kelsey Grammer reads *Cannibalism in the Cars*
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd and guests talk about the week's sporting events
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Front Page Sport Rob Bonnet examines Muhammad Ali's refusal to fight in Vietnam. See Choice (2/3)
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Lemona's Tale Final part, by Ken Saro-Wiwa
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Selective culling is the order of the night

Readers who drove through the Regent's Park area of London a few years ago may remember a sign which sat in a window on a corner near the Marylebone Road for the best part of a decade. It was a mock triangular warning sign containing a silhouette of a rhinoceros and the caption "Stop Killing Rhinos Now!"

We imagined startled drivers guiltily putting down their spears and rifles, having been caught in the act, and wondered what vigilant campaigner had realised that people were secretly slaughtering pachyderms on the street outside.

It was, of course, a valid and serious point. It is scandalous that these strangely magnificent beasts could become extinct because human beings have deluded *themselves into believing that* their horns are a kind of organic Viagra. But it does raise the question of when, if ever, the notice might need to be changed to "Resume Killing Rhinos Now!"

Elephants or Ivory? (BBC2), last night's edition of *Horizon*, addressed precisely that question, but in relation to elephants. Adrian Pennink's powerful but wavering film retraced the history of these creatures near extinction. We saw the carnage left by poachers, the government hoards of confiscated tusks, and we talked to Richard Leakey, the white Kenyan minister who led the international campaign to ban the sale of ivory.

We also learnt a lot about the social complexity of elephant life, how surprisingly like us they are in some respects, except that they do not, to my knowledge, pay up to $27,000 to shoot a human. The problem is that in some countries, notably Zimbabwe, they have now *over-reproduced. They can destroy* entire crops and will kill farmers who try to scare them away. Worse, they are destroying whole woodland eco-systems by over-grazing, leading to calls for elephant contraceptives (not that kind, silly) and selective culls.

Perhaps the solution is for an animal behaviourist to train the elephants to be more ecologically minded and responsible about crop damage. **Barking Mad** (BBC1) is yet another programme about pets and/or wild animals behaving like human beings. These programmes, which breed like elephants and are devastating huge areas of the schedules, are in urgent need of selective culling.

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

Despite the wacky title and jaunty music, this was really "Animal Psychiatric Hospital" or "Pet Shrinks in Practice". We met, among others, a collie who bit his owner if *she tried to open the living-room* window, a horse with horse-box-ophobia and a savage rabbit.

Their afflictions were all cured by a succession of animal trainers, therapists and "behaviourists" who dealt with the problems by analysing them in relation to the animals' nature in the wild. Rabbits in confined spaces do become vicious (my nephew has a missing finger tip to prove it). This one just *needed more space to bounce* about, and once she got it she quickly became soft and cuddly.

Zack, the collie, had been "promoted" above his station in the family, apparently, and thought he could control his mistress. This was rectified by a programme of humiliations like sleeping in the kitchen and not on her bed.

It occurred to me that these tactics might work wonders with anti-social humans. Duchess the Newfoundland puppy, for instance, is a compulsive show-off, who spends hours galivanting in the river at the bottom of her garden. But when the family simply ignored her antics, she stopped. I feel sure this strategy could work with Chris Evans or Johnnie Vaughan. And perhaps a few nights on the kitchen floor would have saved Glenn Hoddle's job.

The latest series of **The Travel Show** (BBC2) signed off last night with some exotic suggestions for *those of us who are wondering* what to do next December 31.

Complete with obligatory hard hat, Juliet Morris anchored the programme from the obligatory Millennium Dome. Tickets for the show will be available from selected agencies at £35 a head for the day, only £15 over the official price. This is a snip compared with a trip into space which will cost you £45,000, with a £4,000 deposit payable in advance. She told us that 336 million bottles of champagne are expected to be drunk — a curiously precise figure. Who on earth calculates these things and how?

New York and the carefully pronounced Phuket were considered. Or you can go to Australia on a house swap if you can find a couple, like last night's pair, gullible enough to come to Worthing in the drizzle.

Juliet Morris herself sampled a Mediterranean cruise. There is an *elemental law of nature, expressed* in the equation "journalist + cruise ship = amused sarcasm". This is because, however pleasurable they may be for those that like that kind of thing, cruise ships are irredeemably naff.

"It's heaving in here, isn't it?" said Morris when she duly arrived to find that the aerobics class consisted of herself and three others. The line-dancing was a bit busier, though not much, despite the 1,200 passenger capacity of the *Melody*. This is because everyone is too busy working on their weight-gain programme, which averages one pound per day per passenger. I believe some cruise lines provide Personal Fatness Instructors.

"To be perfectly honest, I will not be sorry to get off this ship," she concluded with perfect honesty. Several lines are offering millennium cruises on the Atlantic. I crossed on the *QE2* in late autumn a few years ago, and a stiff blow *was enough to cause one man's* complementary banana to fly from his fruit-bowl and splash down in his loo. So be warned. It might really be heaving in there.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (87638)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (23367)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8058589)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4457164)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6529928)
11.00 ***Real Rooms*** *(6539305)*
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6509164)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1782251)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (27034)
12.30 Wipeout (4964693)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48255015)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (26454)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47977183)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (25863638)
2.05 Ironside A mysterious girl stands accused of murder (r) (3910299)
2.55 Body Spies Young mums get back in shape (5264589)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6187218) **3.45** Spider (2040522) **3.50** Smart on the Road (3105522) **4.05** Rugrats (6269218) **4.30** L & K Friday (5943812) **4.55** Newsround Extra (1483657) **5.10** Blue Peter (6034893)
5.35 Neighbours Anne decides to get assertive (r) (T) (120522)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (299)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (251)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook The former jockey Willie Carson and the wine buff Oz Clarke team up with Ainsley Harriott and Lesley Waters in the culinary race against the clock (T) (3676)
7.30 Top of the Pops Jamie Theakston *introduces Blondie; M People; Mansun;* Mirrorball and Soulsearcher (T) (763)
8.00 Ground Force New series of the popular gardening challenge. Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and Tommy Walsh create a garden water feature to make submariner Rob Smith feel at home when he berths at Saltash (1/8) (T) (9096)
8.30 Birds of a Feather The Chigwell Two prepare to be released (r) (T) (1831)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6367)
9.30 Parkinson With guests Julie Walters and Dame Thora Hird (T) (813980)

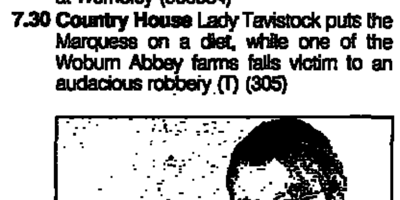


Colonial drama starring Charles Dance and Greta Scacchi (10.25pm)

10.25 White Mischief (1987) True-life tale of adultery and murder among British colonial aristocrats in 1940s Kenya. Starring Charles Dance, Greta Scacchi and Joss Ackland. Directed by Michael Radford (T) (209589)
12.10am The Stand-Up Show With Jocelyn Jee. Last in series (6981684)
12.40 The Big End A transatlantic trip to the Church of Elvis (r) (T) (5553023)
1.10 Slaughter of the Innocents (1993) *Thriller,* starring Scott Glenn as a dedicated FBI agent who enlists his son's help to find a vicious serial killer. Directed by James Glickenhaus (T) (247771)
2.45 Weather (4267226)
2.50 BBC News 24 (13474665)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Hairy Jeremy (3215638) **7.05** Teletubbies (6126980) **7.30** Snorks (6912947) **7.55** Short Change (2825170) **8.18** Rewind (9155473) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7004928) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3083676) **8.50** Johnson (3072560) **9.00** Storytime (8085003) **9.10** See You, See Me (4803473) **9.30** Numbertime (1995218) **9.45** Come Outside (1983473) **10.00** Teletubbies (10305) **10.30** Megamaths (7942034) **10.50** Look and Read (7922270) **11.10** Landmarks (1866837) **11.30** English File (8102) **12.00pm** Scene (25676) **12.30** Working Lunch (27522) **1.00** Johnson (94238305)
1.10 The Travel Hour A guide to the wine-growing region of Burgundy (r) (9992367)
2.10 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Dougie Donnelly introduces the second day of quarter-final action from *Wembley Conference Centre (40696657)*
5.10 International Cricket Action from Australia v England in the triangular tournament final (6555299)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (266386)
6.25 Robot Wars (T) (274305)
6.55 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters The start of the last quarter-final at Wembley (366034)
7.30 Country House Lady Tavistock puts the Marquess on a diet, while one of the Woburn Abbey farms falls victim to an audacious robbery (T) (305)





Donna Bernard and Phil Hammond return with medical insights (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Trust Me, I'm a Doctor** New series of the insider's guide to the medical world (T) (7638)
8.30 CHOICE **Garden Stories** A Yorkshire widower tends his wife's resting place (T) (9473)
9.00 Gimme, Gimme, Gimme Linda makes a stand for the woman scorned by appearing on a chat show as an injured party. Last in series (T) (4909)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks New series. *Kathy Burke, Simon Le Bon, Ian Dury and* Karen Poole join Sean Hughes and Phill Jupitus in the irreverent music quiz, hosted by Mark Lamarr (T) (47386)
10.00 The Young Ones The boys appear on University Challenge (r) (T) (26305)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (862676)
11.15 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Highlights of day six (906744)
11.55 Ski Sunday Special World Championship highlights (967980)
12.45am Later with Jools Holland With Spiritualized (r) (509955)
1.45 House of Blackmail (1953) A hitch-hiker finds himself accused of *murder when a blackmailer is killed.* Thriller, starring William Sylvester. Directed by Maurice Elvey (T) (3823961)
2.55 Weather (4254752)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Science 2 — Biology (34085) **5.00** Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (30218)
6.00 GMTV (1769170)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5418015)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11515522)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7184251)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News *(T) (54676)*
12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (48240183)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street (11522)
1.00 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Includes visits to Dubai, Nice, Cumbria and the Orient Express (r) (T) (11522)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (53947)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5836454)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (515270)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (8054396)
3.20 HTV News (T) (1204819)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2454152) **3.35** Timbuctoo (2079034) **3.40** Animal Stories (2067299) **3.50** Adam's Family Tree (5865454) **4.15** Gladiators: Train 2 Win (148657)

Pop sensation Cleopatra continue their comedy drama (4.45pm)

4.45 Comin' Atcha The pop group Cleopatra star in their own series (5966763)
5.10 A Country Practice Ian discovers an endangered species (9274183)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (751541)
6.00 Home and Away Vinnie is walking on air (r) (T) (253812)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (963676)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (316980)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (947)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Game show (4/16) (T) (8744)
7.30 Coronation Street Sally suffers a setback (T) (831)
8.00 Airline An unruly stag party disrupts proceedings at Luton (6/8) (T) (4164)
8.30 CHOICE **Days Like These** New comedy series inspired by US sitcom *That 70s Show* (1/13) (T) (3299)
9.00 CHOICE **Britain's Worst Drivers** True-life accounts of madness and mayhem on the roads (T) (2299)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (13831)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (145541)
10.45 WEST: Videotech The nominations for the Brit Awards (400909)
10.45 WALES: Welsh Agenda Debate Alun Michael v Rhodri Morgan (400909)
11.15 Bob Monkhouse on Campus Bob fires gags at the Oxford Union (T) (638980)
12.15am Soundtrax (6197348)
12.30 Pirate TV (12/13) (46961)
1.00 Psycho IV: The Beginning (TVM 1990) Norman Bates' participation in a radio debate on matricide spurs him to resume his reign of terror. Starring Anthony Perkins and Olivia Hussey. Directed by Mike Garris (T) (239232)
2.40 The Haunted Fishtank Irreverent TV review with Ed Hall (r) (8847482)
3.10 Baywatch (r) (T) (3050226)
4.00 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (48288)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (72435)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8583183) **1.00 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (11522) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1687744) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (523299) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (1204819) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9274183) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (963676) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (161589) **10.40 FILM: Caddyshack II** (94979638) **12.40am FILM: Indecency** (294313) **2.20 Box Office America** (1110232) **2.45 SeaQuest 2032** (r) (T) (3669771) **3.35 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (40129771) **4.05 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6181110) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7329684)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 News** (T) (7184251) **1.00 Westcountry Update** (11522) **1.30 Jerry Springer** (T) (1687744) **2.15-2.45** ***Home and Away*** *(T) (523299)* **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (1204819) **5.08 Birthday People** (5376909) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9274183) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (39367) **10.30-10.45 News** (T) (145541) **10.45 The Other Side** (2/5) (400909) **11.15 Renegade** (174639) **12.10am Tales from the Darkside** (7265684) **1.05-2.40 FILM: Overexposed** (242226)

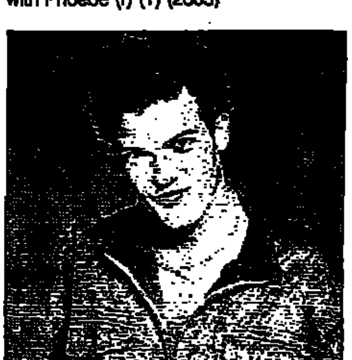
As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7184251) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9274183) **6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (39367) **10.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (145541) **10.45 Dream Town** (3/6) (400909) **11.15 Crowded House: Farewell to the World Concert** (638980) **12.15am-12.30 Sound Bites** (6197348)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8502218) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8583183) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9274183) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (904034) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (367) **6.30-7.00 Off the Beaten Track** (3/10) (T) (947) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (275473) **10.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (161589) **10.40-12.30 FILM: Judgement in Berlin** (12165873)

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (10145201) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34182676) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Off Limits (83143541) **9.25 Schools at Work** (43489560) **9.30 Eureka** (94200947) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (94298102) **10.00 The Complete Cosmos** (65785541) **10.10 TVM** (20626744) **10.25 Iaith ar Daith** (20605251) **10.45 Enter the Maths Zone** (83838367) **11.00 The Technology Programme** (95550812) **11.15 Pa Newydd?** (95573763) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (40664657) **12.00pm** ***Home Improvement*** *(T) (29574270)* **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38129657) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34185763) **1.30 Earthscape** (T) (27709541) **1.50 FILM: Danger Within** (T) (23901611) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81017541) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81036676) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81025560) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64506251) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81016812) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54328034) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16294541) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64526015) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81033589) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (T) (64535763) **8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (64514270) **9.00 Pawb a'i Farn** (78313693) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60216980) **10.35 Frasier** (T) (56630218) **11.05 So Graham Norton** (T) (47879386) **11.45 TFI Friday** (32368657) **12.50am Streetmate** (T) (26328706) **1.20 4 Later;** The RuPaul Show (20231232) **1.50 Late Toon: Fishing for Love** (21693503) **2.00 The Mod Squad** (70616023) **3.00 Vids** (53146232) **3.35 FILM: And Then There Were None** (97041752) **5.05 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.40am Pink Panther (9050638)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout (8941893)
5.55 Sesame Street (3699015)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (49305)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (4859541) **9.25** Schools at Work (6161102) **9.30** Eureka (1980386) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (1978541) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (6414251) **10.10** TVM (9138034) **10.25** Ulster Unearthed (9117541) **10.45** Enter the Maths Zone (2903218) **11.00** The Technology Programme (8253251) **11.15** Stage One (8276102)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (3270)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (10744)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (52218)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (19164)
1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (T) (25850164)
1.55 Earthscape Australian birds (31192164)
2.00 Background to Danger (1943) *Wartime* drama, starring George Raft as an American agent sent into Turkey. Directed by Raoul Walsh (T) (74299)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (725)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (560)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5936522)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3590725)
5.30 Pet Rescue A homeless dog (T) (116)
6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans is joined by Martin Kemp and Ray Winstone. Plus music by Baby Bird (37909)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (338251)
7.55 The Millennial Miniatures (T) (252763)
8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan Tim Smit and John Willis complete the restoration of the Lost Valley (6/6) (r) (T) (5034)
8.30 Brookside (T) (4541)
9.00 Friends Rachel is dismayed to learn that her Italian boyfriend has been trying it on with Phoebe (r) (T) (2305)



Adam Sinclair stars as Jason, one of the teen pop idols (9.30pm

9.30 Boyz Unlimited The band record their first single at Abbey Road studios — in Chelmsford (2/6) (T) (32454)
10.00 **Frasier** *The shrink believes he has an* admirer (T) (11473)
10.30 So Graham Norton (833164)
11.10 King of the Hill Peggy enters a beauty contest (T) (513928)
11.40 TFI Friday With Martin Kemp and Ken Hom. Shown earlier (r) (820560)
12.45am 4 Later: The RuPaul Show (43936)
1.15 Late Toon: Fishing for Love (6066058)
1.25 The Mod Squad (8312400)
2.25 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (3678665)
3.00 And Then There Were None (1966) Ten strangers with dark pasts are summoned to a mysterious Austrian hideaway to meet their grisly fate. *Directed by George Pollock (90690)*
4.30 Music Hath Charms (1935) A dance band's radio broadcast has bizarre effects on those tuning in around the world. Comedy, starring Carol Goodner. Directed by Thomas Bentley (8126139)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (6532522)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (6907763)
7.30 Milkshake! (6741837)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3169589)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4935763)
8.30 ***Dappledown Farm*** *(r) (4934034)*
9.00 Mixing It (r) (T) (4925386)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6005725)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (1012218)
11.10 Leeza (4414541)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4905522)
12.30 Family Affairs Claire gets a shock (r) (T); 5 News Update (9957096)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant and Brooke are caught kissing (T) (6906034)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9956367)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5102096)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (1755676)
3.30 Earth Angel (TVM 1990) The ghost of the former 1960s prom queen returns to the land of the living to sort out her old classmates' romantic problems. Starring Cathy Podewell and Roddy McDowall. Directed by Joe Napolitano (9749638)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (1495819)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (6352541)
6.30 Family Affairs Clive regrets his passionate outburst (T) (6343893)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5106812)
7.30 Malaysian Jungle The role of the Asian elephant in the life of the Malaysian jungle (T); 5 News Update (6372305)
8.00 Was It Good for You? *Two sisters and* two Leeds brothers with their families report on the delights of Villamoura in the Algarve (6/14) (5115560)
8.30 Pig at the Ritz? Jemima Parry Jones of the National Birds of Prey Centre accepts a challenge to take "Grunty" the pig out to tea at the Ritz (5101367)
9.00 Victim of Love (TVM 1990) A successful psychiatrist meets a seemingly charming widower, little realising he's harbouring a dark secret about the death of his last wife. Tense, erotic thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan, JoBeth Williams and Virginia Madsen. Directed by Jerry London (T); 5 News Update (44423812)
10.40 Poltergeist: The Legacy Nick and Rachel are captured by a manic preacher whose flock only see the light of day every 50 years (r) (T) (6938980)
11.40 Irresistible Impulse (TVM 1995) Erotic thriller about a secretary who sets out to prove a shady real estate agent had a hand in her wealthy employer's mysterious death. Doug Jeffrey stars. Directed by Jag Mundhra (18287589)
1.45am Dark Secrets (TVM 1995) A sculptor's career making plaster casts of dead animals begins to get out of hand during attempts to impress a girl. With Anthony Michael Hall. Directed by Michael James McDonald (1105428)
3.25 Stagecoach to Dancers' Rock (1962) Premiere. A group of weary travellers are left stranded in the wilderness by a stagecoach driver who's convinced that one of them has smallpox. Western drama, starring Martin Landau. Directed by Earl Bellamy (27006961)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1004495)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9824752)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (69183) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (22454) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (32980) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (75305) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (77102) **11.00** Guilty! (64638) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (80015) **1.00** Mad About You (68454) **1.30** Jeopardy (60251) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (22164) **3.00** Jenny Jones (95473) **4.00** Guilty! (74980) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (4947) **6.00** Guilty! (8251) **6.30** Friends (2831) **7.00** The Simpsons (5676) **7.30** The Simpsons (8015) **8.00** Beat the Crusher (25102) **9.00** [illegible] Animals Attack 2 (12638) **10.00** Cops (44725) **10.30** Cops (53473) **11.00** Friends (82909) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (47744) **12.30am** The Commish (33665) **1.30** Long Play (7586334)

SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Paws (1996)
Boogie Nights (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
In and Out (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Short Attention Span Cinema (8444522) **6.00 Miami Rhapsody (1995)** (65494386) **9.40** Current Affair (2483305) **10.00 Singles (1992)** (2119589) **11.40** The Ring (8082183) **12.00am Patti Rocks (1988)** (8437329) **1.30 Wish You Were Here (1987)** (5675110) ***3.00 Don Juan De Marco*** **(1995)** (1894400) **4.35 Koyaanisqatsi (1983)** (8888232) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am House Calls (1978) (84251) **8.00 Courting Justice (1995)** (44386) **10.00 Cocoon (1985)** (70638) **12.00pm House Calls (1978)** (34909) **2.00 Courting Justice (1995)** (37947) **4.00 Cocoon (1985)** (7893) **6.00 Look Who's Talking (1989)** (17183) **8.00 The Fifth Element (1997)** (64589367) **10.05 William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (1996)**

(301251) **12.05am The English Patient (1996)** (75320435) **2.45 The Experts (1989)** (280787) **4.20** The Directors: The Films of Lawrence Kasdan (275418)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.30am Desperate (1947) (35831) **7.00 The Last Best Year (TVM 1990)** (83763) **9.00 Vegas Vacation (1997)** (26980) **11.00 The Associate (1996)** (71544) **1.00pm The Last Best Year (TVM 1990)** (37086) **3.00 Race the Sun (1996)** (41580) **5.00 Vegas Vacation (1997)** (59557) **7.00** P-Review (7724) **7.30** UK Top 10 (3183) **8.00** Action Heroes: Nicolas Cage (8164) **8.30** Movie Magic: Mechanical Movie Stars (5299) **9.00 BAPS (1997)** (96819) **10.30 Beavis and Butt-Head Do America (1996)** (24744) **12.00am Kingpin (1996)** (778145) **1.55 Black Sheep (1996)** (670110) **3.55 On the Edge of Innocence (1997)** (7272665)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Sherlock Holmes Faces Death *(1943) (4337096)* **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame. Fred Astaire (3387831) **6.00 Caught (1949)** (1051725) **8.00 The Young Lions (1958)** (88573589) **10.45 The Boston Strangler (1968)** (38334744) **12.40am The Kremlin Letter (1970)** (83561874) **2.45 The Europeans (1979)** (6170394) **4.20 Hellzapoppin (1941)** (4848961)

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro (88773589) **11.35** WCW Thunder (89526367) **1.15am Sitting Target (1972)** (94945416) **2.00 The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968)** (81882690) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Sports Centre *7.15 Wrestling* **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Live European PGA Golf: Dubai Desert Classic **1.00pm** Golf: Australian Masters **4.00** Big Fight Countdown **4.30** Trans World Sport **5.30** What a Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Big Fight Countdown **7.30** Golf: Dubai Desert Classic **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Boxing: Big Fight Countdown **11.30** Hold the Back Page **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.30** Moto-Plus **1.00** Live Golf: Australian Masters

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Live International Cricket **11.00** Spanish Football [illegible] **1.00pm** Football League Review **1.30** [illegible] A Weekend **2.00** The Rugby Club [illegible] International Cricket **6.00** Inside the [illegible] PGA Tour **6.30** Extreme Sailing **7.00** [illegible] Friday Night Football **10.00** US Golf: [illegible] Invitational **12.00am** Friday Night Football [illegible] **1.30** Sports Centre **2.30** International Cricket **5.30** Extreme Sailing

SKY SPORTS 3

11.30am Futures in Sport **12.00pm** [illegible] World Sport **1.00** Fish TV: Tight Lines [illegible] Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook [illegible] Ice Hockey **5.30** World Sport Special [illegible] Moto-Plus **7.00** International Cricket [illegible] World Wrestling Federation Raw **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Snowboarding **8.00** Ski-Jumping **9.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **10.00** [illegible] Biathlon **11.00** Women's Biathlon **12.00** [illegible] Racing Line **12.30** Car on Ice [illegible] Snowboarding **1.30** Women's Alpine Skiing **2.30** Biathlon **3.30** Live Tennis **5.30** [illegible] Alpine Skiing **6.30** Tennis **8.00** Alpine Skiing **8.30** Live Alpine Skiing **9.30** Rally [illegible] Boxing **11.00** Playlife **11.30** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours [illegible] EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill [illegible] When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Detectives [illegible] The Thin Blue Line **9.40** Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge [illegible] Ruby Wax Meets Sharon Stone **11.00** The Bill **11.30** *The Bill* **12.05am** *Doctor Who* **1.00** Doctor Who **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House [illegible] Boadicea's About **8.30** The Fosters [illegible] Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs [illegible] Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Pig in the Middle [illegible] Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O [illegible]



Claire Danes stars in Baz Luhrmann's contemporary version of *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet* (Sky Premier, 10.05pm)

[illegible]

DISNEY CHANNEL

[illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible]

NICKELODEON

[illegible]

BRAVO

[illegible]

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

[illegible]

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible]

HOME & LEISURE

[illegible]

DISCOVERY

[illegible]

ANIMAL PLANET

[illegible]

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

[illegible]

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: A Very Bloody Affair **5.00** The Computer **6.00** Lost City of Petra **7.00** Biography: Bill Clinton

CARLTON FOOD

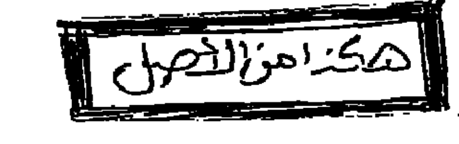
[illegible]

LIVING

[illegible]

ZEE TV

[illegible]





RUGBY LEAGUE 46
Old habits die hard for Hanley at Knowsley Road

SPORT

GOLF 50
Ballesteros finds himself in trouble again



FA targets reluctant Fulham manager as crucial Euro 2000 qualifying tie looms

England put Keegan in pole position

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE preliminaries over, the race to snare the next England manager began in earnest yesterday when it became apparent that, much though the Football Association might offer platonic admiration and respect for Howard Wilkinson, it is reserving its true ardour for the pursuit of Kevin Keegan.

Wilkinson, who presided over England's tame capitulation to France at Wembley on Wednesday night, will meet Noel White, the chairman of the FA's international committee, in London this morning, when he will be asked whether he wishes to be considered for the post on a permanent basis. It is now thought unlikely, though, that he will be automatically handed control for the crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland on March 27, England's most important match since the goalless draw with Italy in Rome 18 months ago that secured their passage to the World Cup finals.

A continuing caretaker role is still a possibility, but only if the pursuit of Keegan falters. Several sources within the FA hinted yesterday that Wilkinson had never been the front-runner, despite much speculation to the contrary. If he does throw his hat into the ring, he will find himself on a shortlist of three that includes Roy Hodgson, the former Blackburn Rovers manager, but which is headed by the man who used to be known simply as The Messiah when he led Newcastle United into the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership.

In the time-honoured fashion, Keegan said unequivocally yesterday that he was not interested in the job at this stage of his career. He said he was committed to Fulham, who lead the Nationwide League second division and play Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday; that he had started a job at Craven Cottage and that he was determined to finish it.

Of course, Keegan is hardly in a position to say anything else. He has two years left on a contract that pays an annual salary of £750,000, he is about to lead Fulham into their biggest game for almost a quarter of a century and he has a chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed, of huge power, influence and wealth. The five headhunters at the FA, though, will not be easily dissuaded.

David Sheepshanks, the former chairman of the Football League, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, David Richards, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, David Davies, the FA's executive director, and White are all aware of the shortage of high-class candidates and the list of those who have ruled themselves out of contention. They are also thought to be reluctant to lose Wilkinson as their technical director, a job that they consider to be of equal importance to that of England manager.

Davies, in particular, has brought a welcome sense of urgency to FA affairs since the departure of Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly and the need to make a swift appointment will only fuel the governing body's determination to get its man.



Hodgson: shortlist

It appears that the FA has singled Keegan out because of his charisma, his ability to mobilise the nation behind him and to be an inspiration to players and supporters. Whether he would be a viable long-term solution is more open to question. That he worked wonders at Newcastle and is still revered in the North East is not in doubt. He did, however, become increasingly vulnerable to the pressures involved in management at the highest level and concerns exist about how he would cope with the unparalleled tensions that come with managing the national side.

If he refuses to be swayed, the FA may turn next to Hodgson, another gifted coach, who would have been in pole position to succeed Hoddle were it not for the bitter end to his reign at Blackburn and the suggestion that influential players at Ewood Park had turned against him. Hodgson is one of that rare breed who seem better suited to international football than day-to-day club management. He would be a fine, feisty, intelligent ambassador for the sport and he has the added advantage of being available.

In the end, it may be something that basic and obvious that sways it. "I think we are very close to filling the position," Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman, said. "Noel White will be speaking to Howard Wilkinson on Friday at a technical control board meeting and they have arranged to meet to progress the matter as quickly as possible. It is not for me to say whether Howard is in pole position. Howard is the technical director and I think that's a very important role.

"Clearly, if Howard was not the man who was chosen, or indeed did not want the job, then he would have a great influence on the appointment. Howard and Noel are the two key figures in this situation and the meeting is extremely crucial.

"We hope to have somebody as quickly as possible, but you can't appoint someone overnight. Some are not available or may be already in positions. I doubt if it will be within the next week, but I hope a decision is taken before the Poland match."



JOHN McLELLAN

Keegan insisted yesterday that he did not want the job of England manager, but the FA will not be easily dissuaded

Thompson, who will be in New Zealand for a month after this weekend, also confirmed the FA's reluctance to retrace its steps, so appearing to rule out Terry Venables and Bobby Robson. That will disappoint the majority of England players, many of whom still think wistfully about Venables's time at the helm. "I think if you asked the players, then 99 per cent of them would say they would like to see it given to Venables," a member of the England team said yesterday. "They are not just saying that for the good of their health. What he did worked."

The FA, though, appears committed to a different path. It will be a lively ride if it get its man, an articulate, impassioned journey through the emotions. Ordinary managers may only need a modicum of persuasion to accept the England job. Messiahs take a little longer.

Missing links............48
Rob Hughes............48
Arsenal stricken............48



I will be staying put, says leading contender

BY MEL WEBB

KEVIN KEEGAN was adamant yesterday in his denial that he was interested in becoming the England manager, but, whether by accident or design, in true football style he left the door open just a chink.

"I don't want to say that I wouldn't want to be England manager, because that would be disrespectful to the job," he said. "All I am saying is that I'm not interested now. I said seven days ago that I didn't want to be considered and nothing has happened since to change my mind."

Keegan was the central figure at a press conference called by Fulham to set the scene for the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Manchester United on Sunday, but, try as he might, the chief operations officer was unable to divert questions away from himself and back to the club.

"I wish it hadn't come this week," he said, "but I've heard the rumours today — but if you're looking for the next England manager, you'd better look somewhere else, because it certainly isn't me."

Mohamed Al Fayed, the Fulham owner, made his feelings clear on Keegan's future. "Nobody is indispensable, but Keegan is an ordinary person and somebody I appreciate," he said. "He has been looked after and I don't interfere with what he does. He is a very committed person who is married to the club and I don't think he will divorce himself from it."

Keegan said: "Mr Al Fayed's put his faith in me, given me a budget of millions and a lot of freedom. I've got 18 months left on my contract and, having started the job here, I intend to stay and finish it.

"I've brought a number of players to the club, the fanbase is growing and we all believe that we're on the verge of something good here. That means more to me than the England job at the moment.

"The people at the FA have known me since I took the Under-21s for a couple of games and know that when I say something, I stick to it. I'm flattered, but it's not for me."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1639

ACROSS
1 Providence, fortune (4)
3 Shakespeare's fat knight (8)
8 US Mormon state (4)
9 Long, tied-back hair (8)
11 Origin, history (of eg painting) (10)
14 Put off: incline gradually (6)
15 Ripe (6)
17 Mocking, disrespectful (10)
20 Formal procedure: the *Fourth*, Forsyth (8)
21 Pillar, buttress (4)
22 Move (population) elsewhere (8)
23 Cure (4)

DOWN
1 Dowdy, unattractive (woman) (8)
2 Dishcloth (3-5)
4 Without an ethical code (6)
5 Tall office-block (10)
6 Semitic person: type of horse (4)
7 Flock, congregation: pen (4)
10 Wheel clamp: *drove? Bet no (anag.)* (6,4)
12 Certain to succeed *(colloq.)* (4-4)
13 Of, worn on, the chest (8)
16 Flinch, bounce back (6)
18 Goad, incentive (4)
19 Manager (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1638
ACROSS: 4 Pen 8 Hoarder 9 Areas 10 Maths 11 Cortège 12 Stowaway 14 Prom 15 Foil 16 Stickler 20 Edition 21 Camel 23 Giant 24 Trojans 25 Eve
DOWN: 1 Thames 2 Wart 3 Odessa 4 Procrastinate 5 Nacre 6 Cerebral 7 Esteem 13 Original 15 Fledge 17 Cocoon 18 Relish 19 Piste 22 Meat

Tactical Henman shrugs off belated Bjorkman rally

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

IT DOES seem to be a little unfair that just when Tim Henman thinks he has conquered the demons that have haunted him at the Dubai Open for the past couple of years, another rises up to slap him in the face. With a record at this event that most would wish to forget, he turned in a spirited performance last night to reach the quarter-finals, beating Jonas Bjorkman 6-3, 7-6, only to discover that his next opponent is Jerome Golmard, who made a chump of him at the Australian Open last year.

Despite recording his first Dubai win on Tuesday, Henman was not sure of his chances against the former world No 4. Playing under the floodlights for the first time this year, he could not help but remember his previous efforts here — two night matches, two first-round losses and two miserable performances. When he dropped his service in the opening game, the memories were becoming sharper.

Bjorkman is one of those awfully nice but anonymous Swedes who appears to revel in his lack of notoriety. The service return, his biggest shot, depends on the power of his opponent and even his favourite party trick — Bjorkman is a wonderful mimic — relies on him pretending to be someone else. Last night, he made the mistake of pretending to be a deeply average tennis player.

Henman's job was made a great deal easier by Bjorkman's problems. The Swede's groundstrokes were stunningly mediocre, his returns toothless and he viewed the net as forbidden territory. It was not to last, though, as Bjorkman went for all-out attack in the latter part of the match, but, by the time he was ready for battle, it was too late. He had his one chance midway through the second set, as Henman could not land a first service and stood at 0-40 down, but Henman stood firm and, pushing Bjorkman into errors and nailing a couple of forehands, the Swede's challenge was repelled.



Henman is full of concentration as he plays a backhand during his victory in Dubai. Photograph: Alastair Grant

"Apart from the first service game, I think it was pretty clear what I was trying to do," Henman said. "I wasn't expecting too much of myself in the first round and I did not put any pressure on myself, either. I felt had the right tactical approach, which was not to give him a target and even though staying back is against my nature, I still maintained my aggression."

Henman had a quick look at Golmard's form as the Frenchman beat Karol Kucera, the No 5 seed, 7-6, 6-1 and said that he "looked good". The Briton feels that the demons have been exorcised, in any case. Henman beat him in Tokyo three months after the Melbourne defeat and said last night: "I have put Australia behind me."

What Gustavo Kuerten has put behind him is somewhat alarming. Arranging his flowing locks into a tight bun stuck firmly to the back of his head, he looks like an elderly schoolmistress, albeit one with a walloping forehand. The shot was more than enough for Johan van Herck, a qualifier from Belgium, as the Brazilian booked his quarter-final place by winning 6-3, 6-2.

Andrew Ilie continued his spectacular run. Having beaten Alex Corretja, the No 1 seed, in the opening round, he dismantled Petr Korda 6-1, 6-3 last night and had the former Australian Open champion on the ropes from the start.